



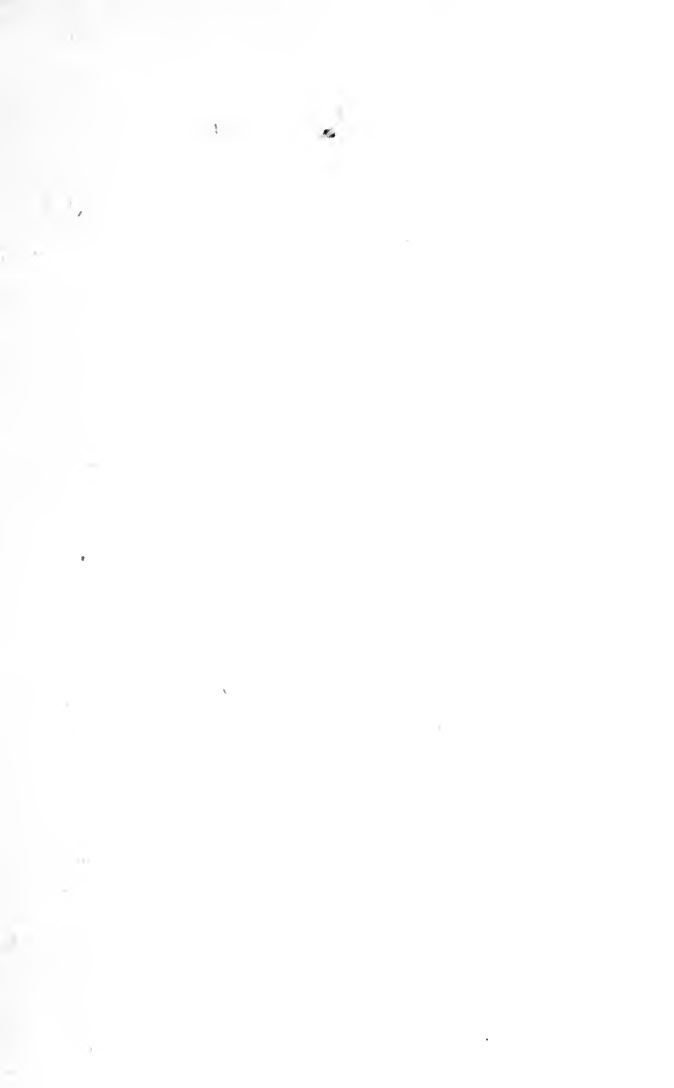


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BALLADS OF THE FLEET

BALLADS OF THE FLEET

AND OTHER POEMS

A New Edition
With several Additional Pieces

BY
RENNELL RODD

LONDON
EDWARD ARNOLD
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THE poems included in the present volume have mostly appeared before, either in the first edition of "Ballads of the Fleet" or in the "Violet Crown," both of which are now out of print. The story of Drake has been completed by the addition of some new pieces, and the former divisions of the subject have been broken up into shorter poems, in deference to friendly criticism. "Abou Hamed" appeared in the *Spectator*, to whose editor my acknowledgments are due for the permission to reprint it here.

R. R.



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GREENAWAY

BALLADS OF THE FLEET

GREENAWAY.

THE mother looked out from the window-bay, looked over
the woods to the sea,
And, "Where are those four bonny boys of mine?" and
"Where are they gone?" said she.

The gardener's lad with the wave-tanned face looked up
from the blush-rose bed,
"They have taken the boat and dropped on the ebb at dawn
of the day," he said.

The mother turned from the window-bay, she was fair as
three-months' bride,
"Ah well-a-day for my four wild boys and their lust of the
sea," she sighed.

But deeper yet had the mother sighed, could she know what
the years would bring,
The gift of the sea, and the doom of the sea, and the faith of
a craven king.

A stone's throw under the windows, by dale and covert and
down,
The Dart winds home from its moorland source to the roads
and the haven town;

And thither it was in an old sea-boat from their home at
Greenaway

The eager sons of the manor-house would fare for their
holiday ;

There were Humphry and Adrien Gilbert, with their friend
from over the moor,

The yeoman's son John Davies, to tug at the heavy oar,

And the boy that held the tiller, and the younger one at his
side,

Were the lads of Walter Raleigh and the same fair mother's
pride.

What deeds of wild adventure they have dared on that
Devon stream

When the fabled West was an easy quest to a boy's light-
hearted dream.

When the river-reach was their tropic sea, and the coast was
the Spanish Main,

And the blistered wreck on the ebb-tide shoal was a great
galleass of Spain.

And so they would come to the haven, where, moored to the
laden quays,

Were the ships at rest with their canvas furled from a
hundred marvellous seas ;

The lofty poops and the painted hulls of the beautiful ships
of old,

The carven prows and the open ports with their guns that
shone like gold ;

For the boys that were born and cradled where the breeze of
the ocean blows,

They loved those ships with the passion that only the sea
child knows.

And the Channel rovers knew them, the men of the western
shire,
And told them tales of the ocean life and the world of a boy's
desire ;

There was one that had sailed with Strangways, another
with red Tremayne ;
They could tell of the Holy Office and the rule of the monk
in Spain ;

Of the corsair folk in the eastern isles with the long brass
guns on deck,
Of the north sea spray, of a gale in the bay, of a fight, of a
run, of a wreck ;

Of the fur-clad folk and the frost-bound shores, where the
day and night are one,
And the drifting ice-floes sparkle to the gleam of the mid-
night sun ;

But the tale that held them longest was the tale of the isles
that lie
Far over the great Atlantic and the land of the sunset sky ;

Where veiled in rumour and fable, withdrawn as a virgin
bride,
The world to be wooed and conquered was a quest that was
still untried.

Then the lips would part and the eager eyes go westward
over the sea,
“ A little while, but a little while, and the time will come for
me.”

Now back—for the tide sets inland, and the mother frets in
the hall,
“ We have far to go ere the sun be low—good hap to ye,
masters all !”

“ God speed to ye, gentle worships—good hap to ye, honest John,
Good luck to you, young Squire Raleigh, and keep your eye on the Don !”

The mother looked out as the westering sun went under the steep moorside,
And “ Where are those four bonny boys of mine ? they are long from their home,” she sighed.

But deeper yet had the mother sighed, could she know what the end would be,
The golden dream of the after years and the doom that came from the sea.

THE STORY OF SIR FRANCIS DRAKE

I

CHILDREN OF THE SEA

IN the Medway mouth by Chatham the King's ships lay at
ease,
The fleet that Tudor Henry built, who was lord of the narrow
seas ;

Across the bay were the shipwrights' yards, where they laid
the sturdy keel,
And there day through rang hammer stroke, and hissed the
strident steel ;

And there they bent the good ship's ribs, and trimmed the
taper tree,
To lift the wide wings windward that bear men over sea ;

The old dismasted war-hulks, whose travelling days were
done,
Lay moored in the quiet reaches, where they blistered in the
sun.

And many a shore-bird there had found a cranny for its
nest,
And children's faces thronged the ports of those old barques
at rest.

In such an ark of olden days, moored hard by Chatham
dock,
There was lodged a sturdy man of God, one Drake of
Tavistock ;

A hard, unyielding Western man, who held with the stern
new creed,
And deemed that the word was lifeless which did not prompt
the deed ;

The creed that yet had its evil days of blood and of fire to
face
Before the faith was 'stablished that has formed the English
race.

He had seen his homestead burning long since, and fled for
life
Across the Dartmoor highlands with his new-born child and
wife ;

What time the Western counties rose, that famous Whit-
suntide,
When stalwart Reformation men were on the losing side.

But now was peace in all the land through Edward's ebbing
days,
Before the torch Queen Mary lit had set the shires ablaze ;

And here of a Sunday morning, in sunshine, rain, or sleet,
The rough sea-folk would gather to the chaplain of the
Fleet :

For they that go abroad in ships are earnest men at prayer,
And they prayed as they would in their own plain way, and
as yet none vexed them there.

So half a score of sturdy lads grew up between the decks,
And paddled in the ebbing shoals, and played at raids and
wrecks—

Their small black boats would bear them over the reaches
wide,
Where the mimic billows tossed their manes when the home-
wind met the tide,

With quick young hands for tiller and sheet alert to the
pulse of the breeze,
And frank young fearless laughter tuned to the tumbled
seas ;

While the mother would watch with anxious eyes from the
deck of their floating home
The track where the children guided a nutshell craft in the
foam.

They were nursed on the cradling water by fostering wind
and wave,
And as they had lived, so in after years in the sea they found
their grave.

There, half in wonder and half in awe, they had heard grave
men debate
Dark rumours of the death of kings, and tidings big with
fate ;

And they saw the Kentish yeomen arm, and march with pike
and sword,
When Wyatt mustered round his flag the servants of the
Lord ;—

They heard of the battles lost and won, and the good blood
spilt in vain,
And the infant lips were taught to curse the league with Rome
and Spain.

So years rolled on, and the eldest-born went forth and took
his chance,
A 'prentice hand on a ketch that plied to the Channel ports
and France.

Dark days had set on England, dark days for such as Drake,
And lurid through the darkness shone the fagot and the
stake ;—

It was little enough like boyhood's dream, a dreary life at the
best,
With danger and toil for shipmates, and hunger oft as a
guest ;

It was little enough like boyhood's dream—when the light on
a sunset sail,
To eyes that followed the outward bound, was more than a
fairy tale ;

To crouch chilled through on the dripping planks, and watch
for the roving lights,
When green seas break on the dipping prow through the end-
less wintry nights,

When the blast drives down from Bergen, and the cloud-banks
blot the moon,
And the evil sea is a churning race from the chalk cliffs to the
dune ;

But the mariner's boy was taught his craft, and in service
learned to rule,
And he braced his nerve and he trained his eye in a hard and
thankless school.

He saw the lilies of Guise at Calais oust his Queen's,
And the fleet of England sail with Spain to battle at Grave-
lines ;

And in the ports of Maas and Scheldt they found no better
cheer,
There too the shadow of the cowl fell deeper year by year :—

For a great unrest had touched the time, the world's deep
heart was stirred,
There rang across the northern blasts a voice that would be
heard—

A voice that shook the ocean shores where freedom wills to dwell,
From Zealand and the English cliffs to Nantes and La Rochelle :

The night of years broke into dawn, and now in a broader day
Men's conscience craved for warrant from those who bade obey ;

And lest this dire contagion spread, and free thought breathe again,
The Holy Office raised her flag in all the ports of Spain ;

And through the Flemish sand-hills and up the Holland dykes
The hounds of God were on the trail to flesh the Spanish pikes.

But where their withering mandate fell deep slumbering passions woke,
For simple men grew great of heart and turned against their yoke,

And deeds of high endeavour were no more to the favoured few,
But brain and heart were the measure of what every man might do.

The wronged took arms and sought redress at their own risk and fee,
Shook off their feet the bloody dust, and gathered in the sea ;

The London merchants mounted guns, and armed the trading barque,
The boatmen left their nets and lines to follow de la Mark ;

So corsairs swept the narrow seas, and watched the highway
south,

While justice in her ruder form spoke through the cannon's
mouth ;

Long years the trembling nations paused, the red fires
smouldered low,

While monarchs knew within their gates the internecine
foe ;

Till there rose in island England a Queen, by God's own
grace,

Who gathered in her ample heart the heart of all her race—

The race which, loving freedom, of their own free will obeyed,
Till champions mustered round her, and trust with trust
repaid ;

She saw the crisis of the age, absorbed her nation's faith,
And faced a world's defiance with battle to the death.

Through those dark years of doubt and stress the coaster
plied her trade,

The preacher's lad grew great and strong—and so the man
was made.

II

SAN JUAN DE LULA

THIS is a tale of treason, with the fate of a world in its
wake—

The treason of Don Martine and the oath of Francis Drake !

It was nigh twelve months since Captain John had beat out
of Plymouth Sound

With the Queen's tall ships the *Jesus* and the *Minion* south-
ward bound ;

And Drake in the little *Judith* had sailed in his kinsman's
train,

With his all on earth in the venture to trade on the Spanish
Main.

They met with a gale in Biscay, they had started late in the
year,

And the Queen's tall ship the *Jesus* was leaky and ill to
steer ;

So they halted in Grand Canary and righted their disarray,
Recaulked the straining timbers and then to the South
away !

They harried the Lisbon traders with Fenner's name for a
plea,

For the law of quick reprisal was the grim old law at sea ;

And the *Grace of God* got an English name and an English
flag at the main
Ere they sailed for Margarita and the ocean world of Spain.

There's many a tale were well forgot,—there's little enough
to boast
Of the work they did those winter months in the bights
of the Guinea coast.

They did not barter their English gold for the palm-oil or
the date,
But the hulls that came in ballast went out with a living
freight ;

On an evil day, John Hawkins, you took up with an evil
trade,
And you set your course by a luckless star with the fruit of a
bloody raid !

Though many had held it was God's work too, while in that
dark Afric hell
Before the inhuman altars the weak and the captive fell ;

While the wretch foredoomed to the slaughter might live to
be sold a slave,
The brand be plucked from the burning and a soul be won to
save.

But little recked they of doubts or fears that vexed the soul
of the wise,
They did as the world did round them, and they claimed
their share of the prize :

And their sons shall make atonement, in the years that are
to be,
For the freight they bore to the New World's shore through
the still Sargasso Sea.

They were seven weeks in the ocean and never a sail
went by,

Cramped in the lonely vastness of infinite sea and sky :

But ever the stars moved eastward, and the new stars rose to
ken,

The awe of the waters scared them, and they longed for the
paths of men :

Till at last with the sunrise glimmer there rose through an
opal sea

A shadowy range of islands and the haze of a land on the lee ;

And the mariner's boy stared wondering eyed—for the wings
of the wind were furled,

And the capes hung high in the still mirage of dawn on a
phantom world ;

A land where never our island oaks had fared since the years
began,

Until John Hawkins taught them the path of the Englishman.

Then a breeze came perfume-laden from the heart of the
tropic zone,

And crinkling waves tossed round them the drift of a shore
unknown :

And the winged fish rose on the face of the deep to skim like
a cloud of spray

From edge to edge of the curling blue and into the blue away ;

But the sun still beckoned them westward till he sank in a
blaze of fire

On the fabled hills of a thousand dreams and the goal of a
world's desire ;

While the parting mists wreathed upwards in delicate rosy
whirls,

And there peered through a rift in the broken veil the peaks
of the isle of pearls.

Now Philip in his great wisdom had laid England under a
ban,
And never a New World settler might trade with an English-
man.

But the lust of the land was on them, the craving of men
confined
For a draft of the fresh spring water, a breath of the off-shore
wind,

So they landed in Margarita in despite of the King of
Spain,
They paid their footing in honest gold and quickened their
hearts again.

And they saw the unscaled mountains that rose from the
New World's edge,
Where the long surf rollers thunder and burst on the coral
ledge ;

But they skirted steep La Guayra till they came to a lonely
bay,
In the gulf that men called "Sorrowful," where was none to
say them nay ;

And there they abode careening, refitting masts and spars,
And they learned the signs of the seasons and the march of
the tropic stars.

Here all was a land of marvel : the fireflies' glimmer at
night,
The shore where the sea-weed gardens rock under the
phosphor light ;

The great tree-ferns and the coco palms, and the wild lime's
sweet perfume,
The edge of the forest crimsoned with the great hibiscus
bloom,

Where clinging from each green tangle hang down like a
cluster of bells,
Purple and pink and scarlet, the frail convolvulus cells ;

Where the moth-birds pause and flutter a shower of gems in
the air,
Dip slender bills in the waxen cups and drink of the nectar
there.

So a passion of high adventure came over that English
crew,—
They had seen the New World's promise and the way that
the east wind blew ;

They had only stood on the threshold, on the marge of the
siren west,
But the magic wand had touched them, and now they would
never rest.

From thence they began their trading—the peace of the
realms their plea,
And the right of open harbour to all from the open sea.

The Spanish governors shook their heads, but they made
protest in vain,
And the Guinea freight was bartered in despite of the King
of Spain ;

For the settlers made them welcome, and came off in the
night aboard,
Or they claimed their rights of market at the point of the
naked sword ;

And it prospered those free-traders till deep in the *Jesus'*
hold
Was a smouldering fire of jewels and a shimmer of virgin
gold.

Then merry at heart they hoisted sail with a homeward
facing prow,
For each had a share in the venture, and each was a rich
man now.

It was northward first, then eastward, the course that the
Gulf Stream ran,
Where it swept to the bend of Cuba from the elbow of
Yucatan;

And there the storms broke on them, and the wave came nigh
to whelm:
The hulls were foul, and they made no way, and the *Jesus*
lost her helm.

Oh nerve of iron and heart of oak were set in the simple
mould
Of the men who sped to the unknown seas in the crazy craft
of old!

They drove past misty headlands with the chill of death on
their souls,
And they heard the thunders breaking over uncharted shoals;

And thrice each deemed that the rest were lost, and scoured
the seas in vain,
And thrice each fought in a week of storm with the might
of the hurricane;

They saw no sun in the daytime, and the stars at night were
blind,
And they sped for a week on an unknown course at the
mercy of the wind;

Till their desperate hearts were broken, and as men who
have nought to lose,
They ran right in to the hornet's nest in the port of Vera
Cruz.

So they moored in the outer harbour, while the ships' bells
rang to prayer,
And they cried on the Lord who had spared their lives to be
with them even there ;

For this was the way with the western folk in storm or
battle or raid,
They wrought with a will, and they fought with a will, and
so with a will they prayed.

For strong, they said, are the whirlwinds, and long is the arm
of the foe,
But the finger of God is strongest in the path where sea-
men go.

Now it chanced that there in the haven the Indies' Plate
Fleet lay,
To wait for the convoy galleons that were due since many a
day ;

And all Potosi's hoarded gold, and the wealth of half Peru,
Lay under the guns of Captain John, of Drake, and his
trusty few.

So the governor manned his galley, and the Dons put out to
greet
The long-expected vanguard, as he deemed, of the convoy fleet ;
But he found himself on an alien deck, and he stared at
Captain John,
And he bowed a cold obeisance, and made haste to get him
gone ;

While couriers sped fast inland to ride with the evil news,
There were pirate craft and heretics in the port of Vera Cruz.

Then stoutly smiled John Hawkins, and he said, " Sith need
must be,
I will hold this port of the King of Spain till my ships can
face the sea :

“By the chance of storm and our evil star we are here in the lion’s jaw;
And here, my lads, we must hold our own by the need that knows no law!”

Now the haven pass is narrow, but it widens deep inland
From the isle which bars the entrance and the long low spit of sand;

So they warped their ships to the new sea-wall in the lee of the island south,
Where the lead gave seven fathoms, and they held San Juan’s mouth.

And they landed guns on the island, they worked with might and main,
And they built the fort Defiance in the jaws of the King of Spain.

No moon betrayed their counsel as they laboured through the night,
And dawn broke over a freshening sea with the convoy fleet in sight.

There were six tall ships on the starboard line, and seven more on the port,
But the English flag was waving from a spar on the island fort.

So Don Martine Enriquez hove to outside the bar,—
And “Bring me word forthwith,” said he, “who these intruders are!”

But a boat shot out from the haven and drew to the flagship’s lee,
John Hawkins sat in the stern-sheets, with his cutlass on his knee;—

“To the Lord High Admiral greeting, for the peace that is
between
King Philip's royal majesty and my own most gracious Queen;

“We be English seamen weather-bound in a port of the King
of Spain,
As we came in peace we would bide in peace, and in peace
sail out again;

“We met with a gale off Cuba, we are leaky and out of
gear,—
But yet, my Lord, by your evil chance we are like to be
masters here.

“There is one way into the haven, and that is a narrow way,
And not one ship can make it if I choose to say you nay;

“If the breeze should freshen to half a gale, as it blew for a
week and more,
You'll find no break five hundred miles in the surf on the
long lee shore,—

“We hold the fort on the island bar, and I swear by book
and creed,
I will sink you all in the narrow pass if my warrant must be
my need.

“But if you will pledge your honour in the name of the King
of Spain
You will do my ships no violence so long as we shall remain,

“You will neither let nor hinder my men upon shore or sea,
And leave the ward of the island fort to my captains and to
me;

“If you sign these terms of treaty here under your hand and
seal,
Ye shall pass in peace to your moorings, and all shall be to
your weal;

"But if you will give me no such bond, in the name of
England's Queen
I give you the bond of an Englishman that ye shall not enter
in!"

Then the face of Don Martine grew dark with an evil frown,
As his captains came about him and they paced it up and
down ;

For he held the King's commission to chase and harry and
take
The bodies of one John Hawkins and his kinsman Francis
Drake.

The day wore by debating while the freshening north wind
grew,
And the waves came crisply curling with a long white edge
to the blue ;

The shrill breeze sang in the cordage, and panic grew with
the wind,
He looked at the lee-shore breakers, he looked at the bond,
and signed.

So the stately galleons entered between the isle and the crags,
While our men stood all to quarters and the Queen's ships
dipped their flags.

The Spaniards moored in the inner port where the laden
Plate Fleet lay,
The English bode by the new sea-wall, but the breeze died
down with the day.

Then all went well for a little while, there was change of
courtesies,
The men took heart of confidence and they landed on the
quays ;

They marvelled much at the giant ships that were nigh two
thousand tons,
With castles set on the poop and prow and tier over tier of
guns :

Not all the fleet of England could have mustered such a line,
And they pledged the Dons in fellowship, and they tasted
Spanish wine.

It was noon on the third day after, we had half of our crews
away
When the sudden rattle of musket fire rang over the silent
bay ;

The galleons slipped a cable's length and drifted down the
tide,
While a great black hulk towed seaward swang round to the
Minion's side.

There was never a word of warning till the ships' sides
clashed, and then
Their boarders sprang to the ratlins and the hulk grew quick
with men ;

But the war drums beat to quarters, and a cry went round
our ships,
The crews sprang up the hatchways with "Treason !" on
their lips ;

And they snatched up pike and hatchet and capstan-bar and
sword,
And they dashed out on the Spaniards, and they flung them
overboard ;

While stricken men with gaping wounds came swimming off
from shore,
And boats put back in frantic haste to the ships they reached
no more.

They hoisted sail in a hail of shot, and they cut the hawsers
free,

So the *Minion* and the *Judith* won safe to the open sea.

But the *Jesus* lay dismantled where the galleons ringed her
round,

And they opened fire at the stroke of noon in black San Juan's
Sound.

The land troops crossed in barges by the shoals from the
haven town,

They took the fort on the island, and they mowed the gunners
down ;

They trained their guns on the *Jesus*, and she fought like a
wolf at bay,

With the wolf-hounds barking round her, cut off from the
narrow way.

They will plead reserves of conscience, and the oath that is
no oath,

But dearly Don Martine shall pay for his broken troth,—

For the gunners of the *Jesus* have laid their pieces true,
And they struck him hard on the water-line, and they lacked
the flagship through ;

The wave rushed in by the breaches, and there rose a shudder-
ing cry

From the soldiers penned in the fighting-decks to every saint
in the sky ;

The main-mast snapped and toppled with the banner of proud
Castile,

The poop sank down in the churning sea, and the stem
showed clean to the keel ;

While far away from the *Judith's* deck the sound of cheering
broke,

As the Admiral's great Armada went down in a cloud of smoke.

“ So the devil comes to his own again ! ” laughed grim old
Captain John,
And his blue eyes flashed through the powder smirch, as he
roared from the poop, “ Fight on ! ”

There were four great galleons silenced when the powder was
spent at last,
When they loosed their fireships on him, and then the end
came fast ;

So he manned his boats with the rest of his crew, and they
cut their desperate way
To the harbour gate and the narrow strait and into the outer
bay ;

And there as they won to the *Minion* and climbed to the
Judith's decks,
They could see the *Jesus* burning in the midst of a ring of
wrecks ;

And all the fruits of the voyage, the silver and gems and gold,
The charts they had made and the traitor's bond went down
with the burning hold.

But none made bold to follow of all they had fought so
well,—
The kindlier sea received them and the shadow of evening
fell.

Day broke on a dreary ocean, San Juan was far behind,—
And the God of the just and unjust tethered the wings of the
wind.

So they hugged the reefs long days and nights, till they
chanced on an inland reach,
Where the surf was still, and the lead sank deep, and the
wave lay asleep on the beach ;

Where the smooth transparent water was clear as a film of
air,
Over fathom-deep weed gardens and sea things marvellous
fair ;

Where the forest pressed to the blue tide's marge, and never
mayhap till then
Wide wandering ships had carried the venturous lives of
men.

And a hundred souls of their own free will were left on the
tropic shore,
Since they never might win to England with the burden that
they bore.

Solemn was that leave-taking, where they knelt in the alien
sand,
Commending these their comrades into their Maker's hand ;

For a year and more in an alien world they had shared in
weal and woe,
Had breasted storm and affronted toil, and had held their
own with the foe ;

And those rough old dogs of ocean were tender of heart and
true,
And comrade clung to his comrade staunch as captain clung
to his crew ;

There were salt wet tears on the furrowed cheeks that the
tropic suns had tanned
As they bade farewell, and they left them there to their
chance in an unknown land ;

To an evil fate, and an unforeseen, as it proved in the years
to be,
When the curse of the Holy Office fell over that island sea.

It was well-nigh three months later the watch on the Hoe
descried

The wraith of a battered warship beat in on the flooding
tide ;

Through the dismal wintry waters, through infinite trials
past,

Hungry and lean and spent with storm, it was Drake come
home at last.

And later yet in the new year's dawn came the little *Minion*
too,

Smitten with plague in the ocean and manned with a
stranger crew.

But the length and the breadth of England took fire at the
news they brought,

The treason of Don Martine and the fight John Hawkins
fought.

And Drake has got him another ship, and sworn to the Lord
of Hosts

He will claim redress at the cannon's mouth round all their
ports and coasts,

Till the treasure stores of the Indies have atoned to him fifty-
fold

The loss of the good ship *Jesus* and her men and the Guinea
gold ;

And so he has gathered a willing crew with the rest of his
Judith's men,

And they're off once more on the same old trail, and it's
Westward Ho again ;

And wherever the wide seas open he will brook no bar nor
stay,

And there's never a wave but English sails shall claim for
their free highway ;

Till the sceptre shall pass of ocean, and the whole of the
world shall know
That an English life is a sacred thing wherever a keel can
go !

And Captain John was on all men's lips, and his loss was
England's gain,
For his single ship had shattered the myth of the might of
Spain.

III

THE REPRISAL

Being the veracious narrative of John Killigrew, gentleman adventurer, who accompanied Captain Francis Drake on his second voyage to Darien ; done into the modern manner.

OH, sweetly rang the Plymouth bells on the day we put to
sea,

When May and June were nearly met and the new leaf on
the tree ;

And sweetly over Edgcumbe's isle the setting sun declined,
It was Whitsun-Eve of May-time, and the May thrill in the
wind.

There were hats that waved and kerchiefs, a cheer rang
round the quays
As the fiddler played our anchors up and the new sails took
the breeze.

The highlands drew their mantle round, and high up on the
Hoe,
And nestling deep in shadowy hills red lights began to show ;

But the eager heart looked never back on a world so good to
leave,
To the orchard lawns and the cowslip fields and the bells of
Whitsun-Eve.

Our captain stood on the *Pasha's* poop as we won to the open sea ;

"Now lay her straight in the sunset track, for it's Westward Ho !" said he.

I sailed with Drake and with Oxenham, and the captain's brother John

With the rest of those who ventured were aboard of the little *Swan*.

We were three-and-seventy men and boys when the muster-log was told,

And only one of the seventy-three who was thirty summers old.

The crew were Dart and Plymouth men, with the four I brought from Looe,

Jack Basset and the Widdicombes, and my foster-brother Drew.

Two years were gone since the *Dragon* ship sailed out with the self-same men,

And Drake had won him his right of way to the Gulf of Darien ;

And the little *Swan* got an evil name last year on the Spanish Main,

For the long white wings of the tiny craft were a match for the best of Spain.

The breeze was fair, with the topsails square, and never a reef we flew,

And the heart of our little captain was a fire to the heart of his crew ;

It passed to a proverb in after-years with the men who had loved him well—

You were sure of heaven with Gilbert, but with Drake you had daunted hell !

At last we had sight of the Windwards limned like a cloud in
the sky,
It was five weeks out from the Lizard, and the second day
of July ;

And not in vain we had proved those seas and charted the
reefs last year,
And laid the course by the star and sun that the venture had
to steer,

For we saw strange sails to the eastward, and ran for a week
of days
Past flowery cliffs where the blue wave winds through the
calm of the island maze.

The men were mad to be landing, but he suffered it not to be
Till our track was lost in the wildering isles, and we struck
on the Carib Sea.

We voided the path of traders, ran west yet awhile, and then
Bore down on the midmost channel of the Gulf of Darien ;

And we came to the hidden haven he had found two years
before,
We anchored under the high cliffs' lee, and at last we went
ashore.

We felled the forest timbers and planted a high stockade,
Where they pieced the jointed pinnace under the ceiba's
shade ;

While we shot the mark with the arquebus, we measured
swords in play,
And Drake assigned the prizes that the Dons would have to
pay ;

The chattering monkeys swarmed to watch and swung on
the climbing vine,
The parrots screamed in the branches, but of man was never
a sign.

A week from the day we landed they had launched three
handy craft,
Twelve-oared and low in the water, and long with a shallow
draft.

Their crews were picked and a course was buoyed as the sun
dropped low to the west,—
The Devon muscle was good to see on shoulder and arm and
chest,—

And the cliffs of the silent haven rang to the helmsman's
cries
As the *Minion* raced the *Jesus* and the *Judith* won the prize,

When round the sheltering headland, traced black on the
even glow,
Came sailing in a barque of war with a caravel in tow!

In a flash we were back to the *Pasha's* side, and Oxenham,
mighty of lung,
Hailed them over the waters, for he spoke with the Spaniard's
tongue;

While the gunners stood to their pieces with linstocks over
the breech,
But the answer came in the Devonshire with a "Plague on
your foreign speech!"

It was Rance the Channel rover in Sir Edmund Horsey's
barque,
Grown tired of his privateering in the Downs with de la
Mark;

And so he had sailed on fortune's wind right into the heart
of the west;
And here was a man to our captain's hand—we were far too
few at the best;

For the mettle of Drake had fired us, we were set on the wildest plan
That ever perchance had dazzled the desperate dreams of man;—

On the coast due east from Nombre lay a cluster of isles he knew
Girded in reefs and white with shoals that had daunted an older crew;

He would hide his ships in the wooded isles, and thence with a chosen band
Creep on by night in the launches under the lee of land;

He would enter the port of Nombre, the great treasure-house of Spain,
And carry a year's gold harvest back to his ships again.

So a bond was made and a treaty signed, and the forty with Rance were sworn
To stand by Drake in the venture, and we sailed with the break of morn.

We came to the fir-grown islands—we sounded wary and slow
Till we found a way through the sunken rocks where the ships might pass in tow,

And we laid them up in a shore-locked bay that ran like a lake inland,
With the world-old forest ringing the rim of its silver sand;

We drew the lot and we started, night through we tugged at the oar,
Seventy men in the launches, and with day drew in to the shore;

We fought with the surf and conquered, we slept through the
sultry noons,

We woke with the shadow of evening and toiled by the
waning moons ;

Till the fifth sun sank in a stormy sky, and at last the
launches lay

Adrift on a murky midnight off the point of Nombre Bay.

Great clouds shut out the starlight, the moon would be late
to rise,

There was one black void of water under one black void of
skies ;

Far off the long surf thundered on an unseen shingle shore,
And between its measured pulse-beats you felt the silence
more ;

And the awe of the shifting darkness wrought into each
straining sense

Till you heard your own heart beating in the stillness of
suspense.

Then eastward rose a glimmer as it might be, faint and dim,
The first white touch of dawning over the ocean rim.

It was only the moon belated, but "Yonder," he said,
"comes day,

One last pull round the headland and Drake will show the
way!"

There was hardly a light in Nombre but the lamp at the
haven head,

And away beyond at the landing-place where the cresset
fires shone red ;

So we stole in under the shadow at the edge of the new
sea-wall,

While the moon sailed up through a cloudy bank and we
heard the sentry call ;

There were ten men left in the launches, there were threescore
sprang to the land,
And we rushed to the fort at the haven mouth and tumbled
the guns in the sand :

But the gunners dropped in the fosses and fled through the
night unhurt,
And they roused the sleepy watchmen, and the darkness grew
alert :

The great bell tolled from the belfry, it clanged with a sullen
stroke,
And rumour swelled to a stormy cry as the shuddering city
woke ;

For Drake had carried the market-place, and the guards were
full in flight
As I fell on their flank with Oxenham, and panic screamed in
the night,—

We charged with a babel of horn and drum, we yelled our
rallying cry,
And the torches fixed on our ten-foot pikes blazed into the
murky sky.

So we fought our way to the treasure-house, and the guards
fell back once more,
The bowmen kept them at bow-shot length while we rammed
through the iron door,

And we stared on an Empire's ransom in the torchlight's glare,
untold
Wedges of silver shoulder high and the Inca's virgin gold.

There were gems imbedded in rough-hewn quartz that caught
the flickering gleam,
There were pearls to be had for the snatching, wealth over
our wildest dream !

But the great Church bell of Nombre boomed on with its
call to arms,
And we heard their war-drums beating and the bugles' shrill
alarms,

We heard the rattle of musket fire where our boats were left
behind,
While clouds rolled over the moon again and a chill struck
into the wind ;

" They never must form to rally. Back, lads, to the market-
place !"
And lo ! as he sprang to lead us our captain fell on his face :

Long since he had gotten a grisly wound, and his strength
had ebbed as it bled,
But our hearts stood still for a moment's space at the thought
he had fallen dead ;

For a sudden volley had struck the ground, and the sand
splashed into our eyes
As we staggered blind from the lightning-flash shot over the
purple skies :

Then the tropic rain burst o'er us, and our matchlock fires
were drenched,
Our bow-strings would not serve us, and the blazing tow was
quenched ;

We raised our wounded captain, and we bore him back to the
quay,
While he cursed us all for cravens—" Will you lose this
chance ?" said he.

For his men with a gentle violence had forced him out of the
strife—
Not all the gold in the west, they said, would pay for their
captain's life.

So the Spanish footmen rallied, and the streets grew live with
men,

And we fought with the pike and the musket-butt, and we
charged them one to ten.

We laid our wounded under the thwarts with the spoil we
had brought away,

And never a man was missing as we pushed out into the bay.

We climbed on board of a seventy-ton, and we cut the
hawsers free,

We towed her out, and we hoisted sail, and made for the
open sea.

While day-dawn scowled through a sullen sky, and ever our
captain railed,

"Had I been quit of my wound," he said, "the venture had
not failed."

But we found good store on the captured ship of red and of
amber wines,

And our wounds were nigh forgotten when we came to the
Isle of Pines.

So Rance took his share of the Nombre gold, and the barque
sailed home again,

And that was the first reprisal that we made on the Spanish
Main.

But we ran for Cartagena, and we steered right up the port,
'Mid clanging of bells from the churches, and thunder of guns
from the fort;

And the launches dashed through the musket fire, and under
the Governor's eyes

Laid hands on a Cadiz transport, and carried her out a prize.

He sent the prisoners back to shore in their boats for his good
name's sake,

For there never was gentler pirate or kindlier foe than Drake;

But he freed the slaves we had found on board at work in
collar and chain,
And thus we won to our service these the deadliest foes of
Spain.

It was first at Cartagena we were 'ware of the evil news
That the men of the Holy Office had landed in Vera Cruz.

And they told of our good comrades in the hands of a ruth-
less foe,
The *Judith's* men and the *Minion's* that were left three
years ago ;

And they told us four great galleons had sailed in the *Pasha's*
track
Because of the raid on Nombre, with an oath to bring us
back.

So we made as though we were eastward bound, and scuttled
the little *Swan*
On the rocks near Cartagena, and with nightfall we were
gone.

We were sore at heart for the brave little craft, but our hands
were all too few
To work one ship with the prizes and to man the launches
too.

So we turned and steered for a lonely bay, far out of their
mariners' ken,
He had found in a deep reef-sheltered blue elbow of Darien :
Long creeks run up from its shelving shore to the foot of the
hills inland,
Where the rain-born torrents cleave their way through the
mud swamps and the sand ;

Where over the banks untrodden, in mist and in fever-
breath,
The silent mangrove forest broods on a world of death ;

Their black stems rise from the waters, their thin bent roots
divide,
And clutch with crooked fingers the drift of the shifting
tide ;

We hid our ships in the gloomy creeks, with the topmasts
stowed away,
And we built us huts on the upland, with an outlook over the
bay.

It were long to tell of the raids we made from our lair in
Plenty Cove,
How we built a fort at the forest edge, and our every venture
throve ;

For thence the swift black launches would creep through the
island maze,
By the channels still uncharted to the edge of the great
highways ;

They would board the coastwise traders becalmed on the
tropic nights,
They claimed sea-toll from the victualling ships and fought
in a hundred fights ;

But we paid the price of rashness, when at last on an evil
day
With a weary stroke and a bleeding crew the boats crawled
back to the bay

With the tale of a raid too well repelled, of the few that were
far too few,
With the mangled bodies of Captain John and my foster-
brother Drew.

We dug their graves in the alien world, as a sailor's grave
should be,
On a spur of the hill at the forest edge where it looks to the
open sea ;

And we mourned as you mourn for the first to fall, and there
stole on the brooding mind
A thought of the lights last Whitsun-Eve and of all we had
left behind.

Now the slaves we had freed and friended were gone to the
jungle folk,
The fierce black tribes of the Cimaroons with the links of the
chain we broke,

A symbol of peace and friendship, that their great cacique
might know
The men of the woods and the men of the sea were at war
with a common foe ;

They were sprung, they claimed, from the mutineers that had
once been a galley's crew,
And a deadly hate of their lords of old was the only law they
knew ;

They had got them wives of the Indian folk, and here on the
free hillside,
In the tracking of game and the plunder of man, they had
thriven and multiplied.

So the chiefs came down to our camping ground, and the
tribe abode with us there,
And we learned the lore of their forest craft, and the trick of
the woodman's snare.

They told us priceless tidings, how the rains were near at
hand,
When the hill streams swell in the torrent beds and travel is
barred by land,

But so we would wait in our hiding-place till the dry months
came again,
When the plate stores cross from the southern sea to the ports
on the Spanish Main ;

They would guide us over the jungle waste through the crags
by an unknown way
To the path of the laden mule-trains, and the road to Nombre
Bay.

So the rains came on in their season, and the hills raced down
to the seas,
And ever it poured on our cranky thatch, and it dripped in
the night of the trees ;

The weeks went by in a shadow of gloom till the camp was
a dismal fen,
Till the chill of the rain wrought into our souls, and the heart
died out of our men.

Then the gray skies broke and the sun pierced through, but
the white mist rose like a shroud
From the ooze and slime of the mangrove creek, and death
was abroad in the cloud.

And one by one in the fever camp our men dropped down
and died ;
There were twenty-and-nine of the seventy-three that are
laid there side by side ;

Till we cursed the sea and the hoarded gold, and the toil we
had spent for its sake ;
But stronger than death, and the fear of death, was the
quenchless heart of Drake.

Though his youngest brother, the lad we loved, dropped down
in his strength and prime,
And I saw great tears in the stern blue eyes for the first and
only time,—

Yet he came and went with a cheery smile, he sat by each
sick man's bed,
He nerved the doubting surgeons, and at night bore out his
dead.

We dug him a grave by Captain John at the head of that line
of mounds,—

They will rise up first on the judgment dawn when the last
great muster sounds ;

They will call their lads to quarters, and my foster-brother
Drew

Will pipe on his boatswain's whistle that the men of the
Pasha knew,

And I pray the Lord have mercy, when the angel reads the
scrolls,

For the bitter death that they died out there, on those poor
seamen's souls.

For look you it is sweet and well in the day we come to die,
To know familiar presences and kindred faces by ;

To watch from sheltering windows wide the happy light that
plays

On pleasant scenes that seem to soothe the ebbing of our
days ;

To see the shadows lengthen down the quiet fields we knew,
And the farewell sunset purpling the distant hills of blue ;

While tender voices whisper near with gently bated breath,
So softly in its season falls the kindly kiss of death.

But it's ill to pass in the wilderness on the bed of wattled
reeds,

With only the swamp to cool the fire of the fever that it
breeds.

Yet they that march in England's van have such grim death
to face,

And alien suns shall bleach the skulls of our unquiet race.

The desert wastes shall gather them, the red sand choke their
groans,

And every tide of all the seas roll up their restless bones.

So there we endured and conquered; the evil drew to an end,

The murmur hushed in his greater loss, and the sick began to mend.

And yet we were hardly a score in all that were strong to march and fight,

When the scouts brought news from Nombre of the Plate Fleet hove in sight;

But thirty men of the Cimaroons marched out with their great cacique,

And they suffered us bear no burdens from the day we left the creek.

We struck through the gloom of the forest, where the dark arms lace and cross,

And the huge dead trunks rot slowly under their pall of moss,

Where there dwells eternal silence, and never the sunlight breaks

The roof that tents the twilight of a sleep where no life wakes.

They found us a track where no track was, and we crept on their noiseless trail,

Through the steamy shade and the fungus slime, to the world of a fairy tale.

We climbed the Cordilleras, up steps of the mountain rills That yet ran full with the overflow from the springs in the heart of the hills;

We passed through untrodden valleys where the shrubs had an odour of balm,

And the wild wood creatures dwelt unscared in the old primeval calm;

The sap of those trees ran white like milk, the wounds in the bark ran blood,

The fruit hung luscious on every bough, and the ripe fruit grew by the bud ;

The cotton blanched in a silky tuft, the bamboos waved their flags,

The acacia pods were a sabre's length, and the wild gourd clung to the crags.

We came to a break in the mountain chain at end of a weary day,

A pass hewn deep in the great rock wall, and the late moon rose that way ;

The upland hollow was dense with bush, and the grass rose shoulder high,

There was nought to see for its forest ring but the stars far up in the sky ;

And lone in a jungle clearing one monster ceiba stood,

The last of a race of giants of the patriarchal wood ;

Its wide arms stretched to the rock's high crest, and its branches bar on bar

Were the rungs of a mighty ladder that reached right up to the star ;

The great lianes wound through them and drooped to the earth again,

And myriad blooms of orchids had life from the living chain ;

They pitched our camp in the mighty roots, and they waved their hands on high,

And they said, " Climb up, Señores, for this is the Mountain's Eye ! "

So Drake swung up through the creepers, and he scaled the ancient tree,

And first of all living Englishmen had a sight of the Golden Sea.

Beneath him forests lay in gloom, dim gorges wound between
White crags like billows cresting in the moonlight's marble
sheen.

Behind the vast Atlantic rolled, and widening glimmering
west

The sister ocean rose and took the moon-kiss on her breast.

He clambered down with a bursting heart, and fell on his
bended knee,

And awe came over us all who watched as he said, "Go
up and see!"

And I went aloft through the twisted coils, and Oxenham
climbed, and then

The mariners each went up in turn to the last of the *Pasha's*
men:

And the mystic secret was no more hid, and the jealous lords
of Spain

Had veiled the face of the virgin sea and had barred her
gates in vain!

We stood ringed round together, bared heads by the flickering
fire,

We sang the *Nunc Dimittis*, and Jack Basset led the choir;

And we swore the oath of a fellowship in the shade of the
ceiba-tree,

We would never rest till an English keel had sailed on the
Golden Sea.

Then we dropped down the gorges, and we came on the
second day

To the meeting of roads in a mountain pass, and they said,
"There winds the way!"

And we looked once more on the western sea, and saw from
the ridge afar

The fleets of the sister ocean in the roads of Panama.

The black folk sent their scouts to spy while the moon was
sultry yet,
And they saw the mule-trains gathered to march when the
sun should set.

So we chose a place in the level way and the narrow strait of
the pass,
Between the gates of the east and west, and hid in the jungle
grass ;

And there we had ease of our weariness as we lay by twos
and threes
Through the trance of the burning noontide in shadow of
rocks and trees.

They rolled us leaves of a priceless herb that grew in their
hill domain,
Whose fumes are better than meat and drink, a drug to the
heart and brain ;

And our limbs, worn out with the mountain march, were
soothed with a sweet relief
As our lips inhaled its fragrance, and our souls forgot their
grief.

Then the sun went down on the western sea, the stars in the
east grew bright,
And the fireflies lit their lanterns in the sudden tropic night ;

And since the moon would be late to rise each man drew on
his shirt
Outside of his seaman's jersey, and we lay by our arms alert.

There were twenty men in the ambush with the breast-high
grass for screen,
On either side of the mountain track, and a bow-shot's length
between.

The drowsy night air hummed with life, the forest things
gave tongue,
While measured on the throbbing pulse the minutes dragged
along.

Then far and faint on rustling breaths that seemed to move
in sleep,
We could hear the mule-bells tinkle far down the misty
deep ;

And ever they mounted nearer, till we heard the hide-whips
crack,
Till the echoes rang with the jangling chime, and the hoofs
that slipped on the track.

They hummed an air as they rode along, the guards at the
head of the line,
They rode right into the ambush, and then Drake gave the
sign ;

And the night was rent with a wild war-cry, the bolt rang
keen from the bow,
The black men sprang to the pack-mules' heads, and we all
dashed out on the foe.

The escort stood for one moment's space in the jungle path
at bay,
And then fled clattering madly back, or on to Nombre Bay.

And we loosed the packs, and we lashed the mules behind
them left and right,
And headlong down the desperate paths they galloped
through the night.

But all the cost of our voyage was paid us a thousandfold
In the gems we took from the rifled packs and the red Potosi
gold ;

And as for the silver ingots that we had no hands to bear,
We stuffed them into the crannied rocks and under the tree-
roots near.

Then we clambered up by the hill-stream's course, though
the way was dark to find,
Where our feet on the dripping boulders would leave no trail
behind.

We were far away on the mountain's crest before the alarm
had spread,
When dawn broke rosy wakening out of her ocean bed ;

For panic grew with the morning light, gave wings to the evil
news,
And they landed guns from the ships of war, and they armed
at Venta Cruz.

And still folks say that in Panama you may hear the settlers
tell
How the Dragon came in his devil-ship, and he made a
league with hell ;

For their own guards saw the black fiends swarm and gather
at his call,
And they cross themselves as they tell the tale : " From such
God save us all ! "

But we went down by the pathless crags through the thorn-
brakes' tangled coil,
Where the face of the cliff was sheerest, bent under the weight
of spoil :

And we came to the edge of ocean at eve on the second
day,—
Our hearts were glad for the salt waves' smell and the beat
of the tossing spray,—

We came to the gorge with its winding stream where our
trysting-place should be,
And there were our launches hidden in a sheltered arm from
the sea ;

And there were our comrades waiting, grown hearty and hale
once more,
And wild at the sight of the treasure loads that our black
companions bore.

We gave the chiefs to their hearts' desire of our arms and
stores and loot,
And we left them all the launches and a Spanish prize to
boot ;

And we got on board of our own good ship, we tested spar
and mast,
Streamed all the silken pennants and shook sail out at last.

We skirted Cartagena with the red cross at our main,
To fire one last defiance to King Philip and to Spain :

And gaily through the tropic sea we ran before the wind,
And left the name of Francis Drake and the fear of God
behind.

Oh, sweetly rang the Sabbath bells across from shore to shore
The merry August morning when we sighted home once
more ;

We heard them ring to matins from Cawsand and the Rame,
And sweetly up the off-shore wind the homely voices came.

We thundered out our last salute to the Admiral of the Port,
And old John Hawkins answered with the guns in Plymouth
fort.

But how the folk streamed out of church, and hurried down
the Hoe,

And left the parson preaching, all lads in Plymouth know.

So there, my sons, the tale must end of what we did afloat,
You must ask good Master Walsingham what Philip's envoy
wrote.

They say Mendoza still protests—and long he may in vain,—
But Spain will pause before she breaks her solemn bond
again.

ST. JULIAN'S BAY

It was summer now in the world they knew, mid June and
the month of mirth,
But Drake was stayed in the winter's grip on the dreariest
coast of earth.

They had sailed in a bleak November and assembled in
Mogador,
He had taken a prize of the Portingals and had set her crew
on shore :

He had made the Brazils in April and watered in River
Plate,
And now two months he had sought in vain for the pass
to Magellan's Strait.

In fog and in heavy weather, through wildering sleet and
snow,
They had fought with the leaden waters in a track where no
ships go,

Where the storm wind howls with a human voice, where the
long swell flings its spray
Up cliffs where never a green leaf breaks the gloom of the
wintry gray ;

And still it blew from the frozen pole, and they beat in the
icy breath,
The *Pelican* and the *Marygold* and the barque *Elizabeth*.

The heart of his men was broken, and ever the discord
grew,
And a haunting dread of that unknown world crept over his
simple crew ;

Till they wrought with a grudging labour, till they answered
with sullen lips,
And the breath of a mutinous murmur went up from the
weary ships.

But the general watched and waited till the time should be
ripe for speech ;
Till the hidden evil had come to light, and the sickness craved
the leech.

They had won to an inlet isle-enclosed, by the reckoning
fifty south,
And the battered fleet put in at last through the reefs that
barred its mouth.

There were spars to be refitted, and the standing gear was
worn,
The hulls were foul from the long sea-way, and the sails
were frayed and torn.

There was never a ship sailed here but once, and now it was
fifty years
Since the great Magellan anchored to deal with his
mutineers ;

There was never a trace of living thing in that arm of the
lonely sea,
But high on the cliff in the silent world stood the frame of
his gallows tree ;

And there, clean picked of the vultures, and washed by the
driving rain,
The bones of a man swung to and fro, held up in a rusty
chain.

They stared at the silent witness of the great sea-captain's
hand,
And the sense of an ill-foreboding came up from that dismal
strand.

Now once more here at this world's far end among the
boulders gray
Shall a court be called for judgment in bleak St. Julian's
Bay.

For at last the leech has probed the wound and the bitter
charge is framed,
Long-hidden things shall come to light and the traitor's name
be named.

So Drake has called his captains and the mates and the
volunteers,
And Master Thomas Doughty shall be tried before his peers ;

As ran the law in England, so ran their law at sea,
Who stood within its danger might claim his due degree.

The chaplain brought the book to kiss, and swore them man
by man,
And grimly that mid-winter morn the ocean court began.

And witness after witness rose, to tell the sordid tale
Of all the arts the man had used to make the venture fail.

Then he, since Drake so humbled him, replied with taunt
and jest,
And by his own lips' railing stood a traitor self-confessed ;

There were those at home in England of the counter-plot,
said he,
Who knew the end of this fool's design long ere they had put
to sea :

King Philip had ambassadors to guard the rights of Spain,
And when the watchman waketh the wolf will prowl in vain.

But the eye of Drake grew cold and hard with the glance it
was ill to meet,
And he called the crews together to the least man in the
fleet ;

From first to last he had said no word till then for good or
ill—

And he faced his wavering captains while his trumpet blew
the “ still.”

He stood erect in the midst of all with his drawn sword in
his hand

At the foot of Magellan’s gallows by the edge of the dreary
land,

While the chill wind moaned in the gully and the waves
boomed far away

On the sunken reefs and the broken crags at the gate of the
wintry bay.

And he said : “ My masters, hearken, friends old and comrades
new,

While I tell you all that my purpose holds and the things we
have sailed to do.

“ There was no man questioned whither on the day we set
to sea,

I am used to be trusted all in all by the men that sail with
me ;

“ But your discords, aye and your mutinies, have left me
nigh distraught,

I must have this left, my masters, though the price be dearly
bought ;

“ I would have you know that the gentlemen shall take their
place with the crew,

Shall haul and draw with the seamen when their captain
bids them to ;

"I will brook no more division—I would know who dares refuse.

God's life! am I not your master?—I will break you all if I choose!

"Let the *Pasha's* men stand forward, you five that were with me then,

When we looked across to the unknown side from the tree in Darien.

"Do you mind my oath in the camp-fire light, how I swore, God helping me,

I would sail a ship with an English flag through the heart of the Golden Sea!

"Since then five years have come and gone, and now, so He hath willed,

The oath that I swore in Darien shall surely be fulfilled.

"For it fell in the appointed time that the Queen, whom God defend,

Had heard her subjects' bitter cry from Berwick to Land's End:

"And since the Spanish King protests his arm may not control

The Holy Office in his realm, which lie be on his soul,

"Since in the councils of her peers she had found small help or stay,

And still unchallenged at her feet the King's defiance lay;

"So in her bitter need she turned from the grave and proved, and wise,

And she called a poor sea-captain who had found grace in her eyes.

"And thus it chanced upon a day, a year gone by and more, There came a summons to the court from the great who guard her door.

“A hand put back the arras and beckoned round the screen,
And I was kneeling at the feet of England's injured Queen.

“She stood against the oriel frame and looked me up and
down,
Who wondered how so frail a brow could bear so great a
crown :

“‘And this is Captain Francis Drake, and that the guilty
head
My kinsman Philip long hath craved, and craveth still,’ she
said.

“She won my heart with mild reproof—with frowns that
died in smiles,
She learned the tale of all we did beyond the western isles ;

“She hearkened and she never tired as I told it all again,
How we stripped the mules at Nombre and scared the
Spanish Main :

“And then herself, with broken voice, she spake of all her
woes :
The peace proclaimed where no peace is ; the bitter cry that
rose

“From cities where her merchant fleets lie idle by the quays,
With rotting sail and fouling keel, debarred from half the
seas ;

“From little havens in the cliffs, where their mothers watch
in vain
For the lads that the fever dungeons will never yield again ;

“From wretches maimed in torture cells, whose bodies show
the scar
Where peace has struck the craven stroke they had never
brooked in war ;

"From those an alien judge hath doomed, and who for conscience' sake
Were greater than their fear of death and English at the stake,—

"And womanlike she sighed and said, 'And is there none to aid?'

And queenly with a burst of scorn, 'Are all but I afraid?'

"So there and then with halting breath, but all the brain on fire,
I told our glorious Lady Liege of all my heart's desire.

"I told her of the great South Sea, the secret of our foe,
Where unperceived of prying eyes his Plate-fleets come and go—

"How there the sword he wields so well, the serried pikes of Spain,
The guns that menace every sea are wrought for England's bane ;

"And so the glorious scheme was planned to raid the Golden Sea,—
Now let me know who turns his back on England and on me !

"Still southlier yet through seas unsailed Magellan found the gate
Where the sister oceans meet and mix at war in the stormy strait :

"And though it shall blow ten times as wild, though the pass be blind with snow,
Though its whirlpools spin with the drifted ice,—where he went I will go ;

"Though the foul fiend have dominion there as the seamen's fables say,
Though the devil in hell would hold me back,—I have sworn to find the way ;

"But when we have won to the farther side, to the breeding
seas of the seal,
We shall sail on the gentlest ocean that ever has rocked a
keel :

"For these crags that freeze on the eastward face slope
green to the westward blue,
And a land breeze gently northing bears up for rich Peru.

"There, where the treasure galleons ply secure from all
attack,
Drop down to Valparaiso and bring the bullion back,

"I look to find the ransom that will more than buy again
The lives of all the English lads that rot to death in Spain.

"Then when the lockers burst with gems, and when the
ballast hold
Of every ship in this my fleet is packed with bars of gold,

"We'll trust the luck of the sun's wake still, and it's West-
ward Ho once more,
And home, my lads, by an ocean-track ship never has tried
before !

"Now if I have told you only here what but I and my
captains knew,
It was that I learned in Venta Cruz of the harm loose
tongues may do ;

"Therefore whoso hath no stomach to bear hand in this
emprise,
Hath welcome and leave to take his choice as it seemeth
best in his eyes ;

"Let him go aboard of the *Marygold*—let him steer for
home this day,—
But look to it whoso chooseth that he steer no other way ;

"For I swear to you as God liveth, wherever my bark be
blown,
I will sink his ship if I meet him, though he be of my blood
and bone."

It was Captain Philip Wynter first, of the barque *Elizabeth*,
Stept forth and clasped the general's hand, and he said,
"For life and death!"

And Thomas Moon the carpenter, the oldest hand at sea,
Spake up and swore a grisly oath, "Lord do so unto me,

"If ever a skulk shall turn his back while I have a head to
break
On the spoiling of the Philistine and my Captain Francis
Drake!"

And there rose from twice a hundred throats a mighty
English cheer,
The voice of hearts in unison the sea-queen loves to hear.

And Doughty heard it far away where he paced the lonely
shore,
He heard and knew his doom was sealed—but the general
spake once more;

He said they were timid surgeons who were loath to use the
knife,—
He spoke of their state endangered by their jealousies and
strife,

Of the rule of ocean broken with brawls and mean affrays,
Of the slights put on the seamen, contentions, doubt, dis-
praise;

And all that smouldering discontent had rallied round one
name,
And the very hand he had trusted most was the hand that
fanned the flame;

Gentle and brave he had deemed him of old, of purpose
steady and pure,

Master of manifold learning, venturous, strong to endure ;

But for all the love he had borne him once, yet he dared not
be untrue

To the Queen's high expectation and the safety of his crew,

And so, since warnings naught availed, and the evil might
not mend,

He had called a court in judgment on his own familiar
friend :

And there they had heard from his lips confessed the bond
he had pledged to the foe,

The trust betrayed and the plot to bring this scheme to its
overthrow.

"Henceforth," he said, "the watchman wakes, the foe has a
thousand eyes,

And wealth and fame, or the gallows-tree, are the end of
this emprise :

"Let no man look for quarter, henceforth who sails with
Drake,

I warn him, if the voyage fail, his life will pay the stake ;

"Henceforth we are bound on a venture that is well-nigh
past my wit,

We have set three kings by the ears, my lads, and we needs
must through with it ;

"Howbeit I trust that the galleons will cruise on our trail in
vain,

For we shall fare by the southern pass while they watch by
the western main :

"But there waits one doom for treason at sea as it is on
land,—

Who deems his crime has been worthy death, let him hold
forth his hand !"

Then a murmur rose from the listening ranks, an oath, and
an angry cry,
And twice a hundred clenching fists condemned the wretch
to die.

The crowd fell back, the general passed to where Doughty
strode aloof—
Henceforth in all his words and deeds might no man find
reproof ;

He had played the stake for life or death as a gambler throws
the cast,
And so, like a gallant gentleman, he would bear him to the
last :

He heard his doom with fearless eyes, he doffed his hat to
say,
“ My cause be with the Judge of hearts until that latter
day ! ”

He craved no grace save such an end as his gentle blood
might bear,
To have his dues as a Christian man, and to shrive his soul
in prayer.

So it came to pass on the second day that the crews were
called ashore,
And they spread a banquet near the strand of the best they
had in store ;

And there, unseen in the chill gray dawn, high up on a crest
of rock,
In the face of Magellan's gallows-tree, Tom Moon set up the
block :

They dressed an altar near at hand with the red cross banner
spread,
Where the chaplain, stoled and surpliced, set on the wine and
bread :

And Drake and Thomas Doughty knelt down there side by side,
In Nature's vast and awful shrine above the yellow tide,
While Master Fletcher ministered and blessed the bread and brake,
And gave the cup in brotherhood to Doughty and to Drake.
And those rough souls were awed and cowed, while moaned the rainy wind,
And the deep voice of ocean boomed its measured chant behind.

Then, the long quarrel reconciled, each kissed the other's cheek,
And held his hand for a little space, but no man heard them speak.

So they passed to where the board was spread in a sheltered spot to lee,
They made good cheer together there, each after his degree.

But Doughty filled a cup and cried a pledge in Spanish wine,
"Here's luck in all your ventures, lads, and a better end than mine!"

And in a little while he rose, and with a courtier's bow,
"With your good leave, my captain," he said, "I am ready now."

They climbed the crest of broken hill to where the block was set,

As men unmoved by craven fear, by passion or regret.

And Doughty passed along the ranks with a word to each and all,

And as he knelt to try the block the rain began to fall.

But Drake unclasped his seaman's cloak and spread it on the ground,

And bared the sword his arm alone might wield in honour bound;

The shivering blade whirled round and fell cold, cruel, swift
and keen.

“So perish all her enemies!” said Drake; “God save the
Queen!”

He spread his cloak about the corpse, and raised the severed
head,

The shuddering crews drew slowly back and left him with
the dead :

And long he gazed in that pale face he shielded from the
rain ;

Thereafter, saith the chronicle, Drake seldom smiled again.

The grave is on that bleak foreshore, and the crime is purged
away,

But steadfast stands while England stands her ocean law,
“Obey !”

V

THE WIND OF GOD

It was late in the wintry August when the ships were fit
for sea,
From stem to stern-post caulked and paid, for the fierce
fight yet to be ;

And they double-braced the standing-gear, reshipped their
spars and stores,
And beat out seaward eagerly from those ill-omened shores.

It was noon on the third day after, they had sight of the
ocean gate
Where the long black wall of mountain is cleft by the fabled
strait.

They saw the headlands break the swell, the great walls
yawning wide,
And up the foam of shoaling reefs a path of steely tide ;

Thereat he streamed his banners out, and as he passed
between
Drake struck his topsails on the bunt in homage to the
Queen ;

And since his bird of wilderness had met with fortune's
wind,
New named henceforth the *Pelican* shall sail the *Golden
Hind*.

Their track wound in through narrowing gulfs with bastioned
walls o'erbowed

'Neath drifted snows on the dripping shelves and a tent of
inky cloud ;

Fierce wind-flaws drave with an angry blast at the turns of
the winding way,

Bleak breaths that swept from the misted crags and lashed
the freezing spray ;

Wild currents raced through the twisting tides that washed
round wilderness isles,

And the shadow of night hung all day long in the deep
scarred rock defiles ;

And ever at even wandering fires showed glimmering through
the gloom,

While prisoned deep in the tunnelled caves they heard the
pent seas boom ;

There many a stout heart shook for dread that had feared no
earthly foe,

For the weird of night is an awesome thing in the paths
where seamen go.

And at times the strait way broadened out till the white
mists hid the shore,

And they^o drifted on in a veil of fog till they heard the
breakers roar,

Then the lead would fly from the sounding-chains, and the
starboard line raced free,

While the larboard caught on a sunken edge of the shoal
they might not see :

They were fifteen days and fifteen nights in the throat of the
dismal strait,

And the shadow of death was near alway, but as yet they
could smile at fate,

For ever the eye of the master watched, and a master-hand
was laid
To sail and tiller and sounding gear, and a master-voice
obeyed ;

Till the dreary battle was all behind, and at last the deed
was done,
And the keel of an English ship ran out on the sea of the
setting sun.

They watched him drop to the ocean rim, and they felt the
old sea-spell
As with joy they beat to the open wave, and the long south
twilight fell.

But lo, when the dawn came gray with cloud there was no
more land on the lee,
And they met the tail of the western gale that is lord in
the southern sea ;

And a tempest rose such as never yet they had hoped for
heart to brave,
These men who had spent their whole hard lives at the
chance of the evil wave.

It flung them south and it drove them east, while the moun-
tain tides ran past
With death in the hiss of the breaking swell and death in the
boom of the blast ;

The sky pressed down on their bare mast poles as they
scudded before the wind,
As they climbed the seas and shuddered at the sheer green
gulfs behind ;

And swiftness raced the following tide with the white comb
reared to whelm,
And they knew how nigh was the dread lee-shore, but they
dared not change the helm.

The nights grew brief in that wintry world, but there broke
no friendly sun

Through the cumbered cloud and the drifting scud, and the
night and the day seemed one.

So ever they toiled at the creaking pumps and the breach
that the green seas made,

And ever they cried on the Lord of Storms, and their hearts
were unafraid.

Week after week at the tempest's will the *Golden Hind*
ran on,

Till the blast died down to a whispering breeze and a clean
sun rose and shone;

And the albatross came wheeling to stare at their ribboned
sail

As he dropped from the calm of the upper sky in the wake of
the dying gale.

They rode alone in a lonely sea,—it was months before they
knew

They would meet no more with their sister ships at the tryst
in far Peru,

For the great untraversed ocean had claimed its first-fruit
prey,

And never a sign from the *Marygold* shall be till the judg-
ment day;

But Wynter ran with the warning wind back into the
sheltered strait,

And there three weeks he had lingered on, for the storm
would not abate;

Till at last with a waning hope or will, grown weary of fight
and foam,

He turned his back on the venture and set the course for
home.

So the might of the waves was broken, and the might of the
sun shone forth,
And eastward stretched a broad sea-way, but the land lay
west and north ;

Till then they had deemed that the austral earth with a long
unbroken shore
Ran on to the Pole Antarctic, for such was the old sea-lore ;

But here were the sperm whales spouting for joy that the
storm was done,
And the ice-floes sailing round them and the waves blue
under the sun.

The sick men crept from their reeking bunks, and climbed to
the decks again,
To see where the sister oceans met to the south of the
gloomy main ;

And they hailed that storm for the wind of God, for the
might of its blast had borne
The *Hind* on her path of glory a sea-league past the Horn.

They steered for the shadowy land they saw low under the
northern sky,
To an isle unveiled by the lifting cloud, and they found good
haven nigh :

They laughed and sang as they scaled the cliffs, the New
World rang with mirth,
And they stretched glad arms to heaven on the southernmost
earth on earth.

VI

THE TREASURE GALLEONS

BEYOND the gloom of ice-scarred cliffs that bound that austral
land

The coast trends north two thousand miles through plains of
yellow sand ;

And darkly shadowed far inland the sudden Andes rise
With bleak and barren flanks that turn towards the sunset
skies ;

For bounteous earth looks eastward there, and from her
snow-capped crests

Great rivers flow to meet the dawn among her fruitful
breasts.

But rarely some lone mountain tarn spills westward down
the chain

A stream that feeds its borderlands of garden in the plain ;

So the ports where ships may enter are few and far between,
Where some such silver thread winds down to make the
desert green.

They watched the snows of Andes slide past beneath the
moon,

And felt the summer's breath once more blow down the
mellow noon ;

The eager zest of life came back, they drank a glorious air,
Forgot the toil of weary months and winter's long despair.

It was a fair November eve in Valparaiso Bay,
Where all aboard made taut for sea the treasure-galleon lay.

The crew were lounging o'er her sides to watch the setting
sun,
And sweetly fell the end of day to men whose work was
done.

A lazy mist hung o'er the stream and veiled the hills in blue,
And up the lime-washed belfry tower the rose of evening
grew.

The ripple from the river ran a sheet of quivered flame,
And softly on the dropping breeze the bell's low tinkle came ;

When round the distant headland a dark sail hove in sight,
A gallant bark stood up the bay, and swiftly fell the night.

An hour more and the last red glow on ocean's margin
waned,
And through the pale star-clusters the queen moon rose and
reigned.

The Spaniards broached a cask of wine, the crew stood by to
greet

The ship come in from Panama with tidings from the fleet.

A boat has left the stranger craft, they hailed, and one
replied,

And a score of sturdy Devon lads have swarmed the galleon's
side ;

A sudden rush has cleared the decks, and up swarmed
twenty more,

And the galleon's crew are overboard and striking out for
shore ;

But her pilot hailed them friends, not foes, a Greek long
years impressed,
An eager guide to steer the *Hind* along the unknown west.

Oh, never draught of wine hath seemed so sweet to parching
mouth
As that first cup they pledged on board the *Captain of the
South!*

A panic seized the little port, the townsfolk fled inland,
And left their stores of Chili wine and all good things to
hand.

So three days more Drake lingered here and stocked the ship
afresh,
They had lived too long on melted snow and the bitter
penguin flesh;

And the scurvy-stricken wretches laughed out for very
mirth
As they culled the fruits they craved for and blessed the
mother earth.

Then wind and current bore them north along the yellow
main,
And the sound of fife and hautboy was heard on board
again;

For keen as lads let loose from school, with reckless jest and
boast
They raided every bight and bay that frets the silver coast.

And ere they left Arica's quays with all her ingots stored,
There was half-a-million ducats' worth of silver bars on
board.

In splendid scorn of circumstance, with desperate odds to
face,
They sailed, those first intruders of our adventurous race;

To-day a wiser, wearier world will brand them buccaneers ;
They did not doubt their cause was just in those distracted
years.

In a little while all England's isle, like them, shall gird for
fray :
The first who battle with the strong must use what arms
they may.

But still no tidings came to hand of Wynter and his crew,
So they bore away for Lima and the spoils of rich Peru.

For every bark they had overhauled confirmed their pilot's
tale,
That the richest prize in all those seas lay there and due to
sail.

They left the *Captain of the South* without a crew to drift,
Henceforth the *Hind* must sail alone, for the race is to the
swift :

And fleetier than the tidings ran from shores their advent
scared,
They sailed beyond their ill-renown and found men un-
prepared.

They lay hove-to a sea-league off, and then with never a
light
Ran up Callao di Lima in the dead of a murky night.

But the giant *Cacafuego* had sailed ten days before,
Deep laden to the water-line with all Potosi's ore ;

And while they ransacked empty hulls a wild alarum broke
From clamouring bells and signal-guns, and startled Lima
woke ;

Red torches flitted through the gloom, men mustered on the
quay,
And Drake must cut his cable-tow and hurry out to sea.

But the light night breeze died down with dawn, and there
the rovers lay

With flapping sails struck motionless a short sea-league
away ;

While rumour rode with panic spur, their one ship grew to
ten,

And the Viceroy of Peru marched down with twice a thou-
sand men.

He has manned and armed four galleons, with the charge to
take or burn

The Dragon in his devil-ship, or nevermore return.

But still across a cloudless sky the slow sun climbed and
crept,

While like a sheet of milky glass the breathless ocean slept ;

And morn and morrow's morning dawned, and still like a
drowsy spell

On land and water, friend and foe, the trance of nature fell.

And now the watchers on the *Hind* beheld from those clear
shores

Two galleys move like living things on hundred-footed oars ;

They heard their pulsing measured thud far off across the
calm

As they cleared their deck for action and sang the battle
psalm.

The general's clear blue eye surveyed the narrowing space
between,

"Now, lads," cried he, "to play the man, for God and for
the Queen !"

But ere the answering cheer died down a dark flaw crimped
the seas,

The ripple rattled on the stem, they sniffed the coming
breeze :

The white sails filled, the good ship heeled, the merry land-
wind blew,
And as a scared swan skims the lake she shook her wings
and flew.

And now to crowd all canvas on and dog the *Spitfire's* wake,
There sails no craft of Panama shall show clean heels to
Drake.

They tracked her north from port to port, they never lost the
trace,
Eight hundred weary miles of sea, and yet she baffled chase.

She had lingered in Truxillo to load more treasure still,
She had watered at Paita, she had touched at Guayaquil.

It was hard on the Line on the first of March when the
morning broke at last,
They were 'ware of her square-rig far away, and they knew
that they held her fast.

So they shortened sail in the *Golden Hind* to wait till the
end of day,
And they trailed great casks and breakers at her stern to
check the way.

The sun was dropping down the west as they cut her fetters
free,
And like a greyhound slipped from leash she bounded through
the sea :

They hauled the chase as twilight fell—one flight of arrows
flew,
One broadside brought the mainyard down, and the giant
ship hove to.

Night strode across the heaving deep, night and the un-
known foe,
And the richest prize that ever sailed has struck without a
blow.

Her captain sits at meat with Drake, a sore unwilling guest,
And prize and captor side by side have set their courses west.

Far off in ocean's solitude, secure from all pursuit,
They overhauled the priceless freight and they found an
empire's loot :

There were thirteen chests of minted coin, there were pearls
and gems untold,
And all the ballast under decks was silver bars and gold.

The admiral of the treasure fleets at Nombre waits in vain,
For not one ounce of all that gold shall find its way to Spain.

The cruisers sent from Lima long since had cried despair,
The Dragon came they knew not whence, and was gone they
knew not where.

So all the coast rose up in arms, and, as the panic grew,
The great ship came to Panama, a long month overdue ;

They had met, they said, with a corsair, whose like there
was none on earth,
For the men at arms who served him were of England's
gentlest birth ;

There was never a crew so ordered, so quick to the captain's
call,
He lived like a prince in his state on board, and his will was
a law for all.

They had brought a letter signed and sealed with a haughty
word from Drake,
And the king's vicegerent gnashed his teeth as he read for
anger's sake ;

"There be English seamen here," he wrote, "of my own
old fellowship,
Whose limbs are chained to your galley bench, and red from
the driver's whip,

‘Henceforth I bid you give good heed that they come to
no more harm,
Or I’ll hang me a thousand Spaniards at the *Golden Hind’s*
yard-arm.”

So frigates with despatches sailed post haste from Venta Cruz,
And soon Madrid and Lisbon rang with this disastrous news;

Then Sarmiento put to sea to block Magellan’s Strait,
And Philip’s envoy found the Queen no novice in debate;

Once more El Draque had dared transgress the sea’s for-
bidden bar,
Had set the bulls of Rome at naught, perplexing peace with
war;

His liege of Spain would learn forthwith whose flag these
corsairs fly!—

Not Cecil, but the Queen herself, returned the proud reply:

“For proven wrong waits due redress; but ill-timed comes
your plea
When hireling bravos land and league with Desmond’s
Irishry:

“When all the claims myself have urged for wrongs to be
redressed
Still wait my kinsman’s courtesy to be answered—for the
rest,

“I have yet to learn what papal bulls run west of Finisterre
To bar my people’s birthright in ocean, earth, and air!”

And thus the war of words ran high with claim and counter-
claim,
And weeks and months rolled on for years—but of Drake no
tidings came.

VII

THE WORLD ENCOMPASSED

THREE thousand miles to the frozen north on a track untried
of man,
They had sought for the fabled outlet of the Straits of
Anian ;

As many a stout heart yet shall sail in the years that are to
be,
On the phantom quest of the drift north-west, through the
heart of the iceberg sea.

But ever they beat in the teeth of storms, half blind with the
threshing hail,
While the spray froze fast on gear and mast and starched
their fretting sail ;

They came to the edge of a mountain world, where clouds
hung heavy and low
On the gloom of the great fir forests, black under the crown-
ing snow :

The sparkle died from the merry sea, and the fogs lay dank
and thick
On the wan unfriendly waters, and half of his men fell sick.

But the trend of the land lay westward still, and icier struck
the blast,
The work of three grew a toil for six, and they gave up hope
at last.

So the *Hind* ran south with the wind in her wake till they
chanced on a kindlier land,
And they set up forge and workshop, and they beached her
on the strand.

The gentle tribes of the Indian folk came down to their camp
unscared,
On a shore that the Old World's lust for gold or hunger of
earth had spared :

They hailed them welcome, they brought them gifts, in
wonder and love and awe,
And bowed at the feet of the great white gods who were
come to give them law ;

They brought the wand of their chief of chiefs to set in the
general's hand,
And with mystic rights proclaimed him the lord of the
Indian's land.

So the English went to their upland towns, for the fringe of
the hills was near,
Looked over the boundless pasture world and the untold
herds of deer ;

The dust of that earth was agleam with gold, the skirt of the
slopes was rare
With the tender growth of a northern clime, and spring was
quick in the air.

There was many a lad was tempted then—begged hard to be
left behind,
For they said, " We have wandered two full years at the
chance of the fickle wind.

" So long we roam, and it's far to home, and weary of fight
are we,"
But the captain frowned in silence as he led them down to
the sea.

He piled a cairn on the cliffs' high crest with a graven plate
thereon,

And Her Grace's name writ large to mark when her latest
realm was won ;

He called that land New Albion, with a tender thought for
home,

As they bade farewell to the gleaming rocks that rose through
the whiter foam ;

The wild folk watched with wondering eyes, the women
crooned low wails,

For the fair white gods went seaward and the *Hind* shook
out her sails.

But the sea-queen's brood shall come once more to that shore
where the white cliffs are,

When the sons of their children's children have followed the
evening star ;

Their bounds shall be either ocean, for the same divine
unrest

Shall drive their teeming millions to seek new fortunes west ;

And a great sea-city havened here shall leap to sudden fame,
Re-echoing in an alien speech the great sea-captain's name.

He laid his course by the Spaniard's chart, "For we'll trust
to the open sea,

And it's Westward Ho till the home-wind blows, as it was
from the start," said he.

"We are half-way round the world, my lads, and it's half-
way round once more,

Till we've ploughed a track on the ocean's back that never
was ploughed before."

So they dropped to the edge of the North-East Trade, and
they ran west sixty days,

With never a sight of shore or sail in the infinite ocean
ways ;

And the mariner's boy through the long night-watch would
brood on his heart's desire,
While the strange stars played with the dancing yards and
the wake ran blue with fire ;

For the craving came that the wanderer knows for the lilt of
his own folk's speech,
For the damp moss scents in the ancient grass and the shade
of elm and beech,

For the rook's loud call in the twilight fall and the thin blue
smoke that weaves,
The veil of mist on the red farm roof and the gold of the
autumn leaves.

But weary wide were those seas untried, and little avail
to sigh

For the home stars in their places and the old familiar sky.

Light lie the snows on byre and thatch, and windless falls
the rain,

Deal gently with them, summer sun, till we get back again !

And at last they came to a mid-sea isle, and a cluster of isles
beyond

Swam up through the white mirage of dawn as if by a fairy's
wand ;

Up rose the sun, the long low swell slid landward flushed
with day,

And the golden message climbed the brows of an upland far
away ;

The fighting sea-birds overhead went clanging through the
sky,

But the ripple showed the white reef's edge, and they dared
not venture nigh.

So they left the clustering isles to dream through their
drowsy moons and noons,

Safe walled in the coral girdles that glass their still lagoons

And they bore away for the Line once more till a fairway
broadened free,
Where the perfume-laden breezes blow through the blue
Molucca sea.

The bloom of the clove was harvested as they lingered to
explore
The garden ways of the ocean realms of Ternate and
Tidore ;

And they beached the *Hind* in a lonely isle where foot never
yet, maybe,
Had stirred the sand of the shell strewn strand since the isles
came up from the sea.

All over its hills gigantic, weird, the silent forest grew,
With tapered stems to the tented roof that never a sun
looked through,

And even at midmost noon was gloom in the branchless
colonnade,
Where the bats and the flying foxes were lords of the
twilight shade,

Where great land-crabs in the twisting roots stared out of
their towering eyes,
And night was quick with the shifting light of the myriad
phosphor flies.

So there they abode for a month intrenched with the bullion
stacked on shore,
Till trimmed and taut for her long run home, she slid to the
deep once more.

Then west and south through the infinite isles, through
treacherous reefs that hide,
Where the dead volcanoes cumber the drift of the parcelled
tide ;

They were bound for the Sunda Channel, for the chart gave
free-way there,
They were two days out from Celebes, and the topsail wind
blew fair ;

There was never a sign on the false sea's face as she struck
with a grinding shock,
As the keel ploughed through and the ship held fast in
the crust of a sunken rock ;

Oh, many a time these two years back they had fought with
the ague breath
That chills the heart of the bravest man when he looks in
the face of death ;

But not in their mad race past the Horn, nor the jaws of the
fearsome strait,
Not yet at the hand of God or man had they stood so near
their fate.

And then, as ever in direst need, they bent the stubborn
knee,
And said the brief and earnest prayer to the God who made
the sea.

It was all deep water round the *Hind*, and the warps could
find no stay,
And fast at the chance of a freshening breeze and a rising
swell they lay ;

So they rolled the great guns overboard, and the spoils of
rich Peru,
The shimmering ingots one by one went diving down the
blue.

No craven panic blanched their cheeks though the good ship
never stirred,
The ocean drill was perfect now—one voice alone demurred :

What ailed you, Master Fletcher, there, brave heart in all
beside,
To prate about the hand of God, and the death that Doughty
died ?

The little captain turned in wrath and flung him on the
deck,
Set both his ankles in the stocks, and a posy round his neck :

“Lo, here sits Parson Fletcher, the falsest knave alive !”
“For till her timbers part,” said he, “I’ll have no croaker
thrive.”

And so the weary day went down, and up the full moon
sailed,
The broken waters tinkled by, and nought their toil availed ;

But tired and spent and sick at heart they watched the
watches through :

“We are in the hand of God,” said he ; “we have done what
men may do.”

And lo, the hand was stretched to save ; as it drew towards
the day

The breeze that held her broadside up grew slacker, died
away ;

She heeled towards the deep once more, and so with never
a strain,

By the mercy of God, as the morning broke, slid back to her
own again.

Now, drawers, bring the Alicant of which we robbed the
Don !

Go loose the parson from the stocks, and get his surplice on !

The leadsmen to the chains again, for Drake’s triumphant
star

Shall guide us through the Flores Sea and past the eastern
bar !

So on by treacherous reef and shoal, by cape and channel
and sound,

They groped their way through the island belt that girds the
South Sea round ;

Behind them sank the shadowy shores, and they came on the
ocean swell

Where the great tides heave untrammelled, and they knew
that all was well.

VIII

THE HOMECOMING

Now it fell one morn in the after-year there was stir in
Plymouth fort,

And the guard turned out as the daylight broke to the
Admiral of the Port,

For the watch on the Rame had sent him word of a warship
hove in sight

That beat in the teeth of the keen north-east at fall of the
autumn night ;

He searched the dawn with his keen sea eyes, for there sailed
neither Dutch nor Don,

But veiled his tops to the English flag in the days of Admiral
John.

And need was then for wary eyes, for the news was fresh to
hand

Of galleons off the Irish coast with companies to land.

The white mist rose, a bare mile off she stood in over the
bay,

And she bore her topsails proudly as one that had right of
way :

"If ever the dead came back to life," it was old John
Hawkins spake,

"I had sworn to that rig in a thousand ships for my kinsman's
Frankie Drake."

And e'en as he spake the red cross flag shook out from her
taper mast,
A thunder of guns broke right and left and the *Hind* was
home at last!

Her beardless boys were seasoned men with necks set firm,
and face
Tanned ruddy by the winds and suns that shape the sea-born
race;

Her fluttering sails were patched and frayed, her bulwarks
all a wreck,
The pitch ran through her open seams and stained her
splintered deck;

Her painted prow was rusty brown with the crust of alien
seas,
And half her ports were blind of the guns she had dropped in
Celebes:

But every hand was up on deck, or aloft on mast and spar,
To cheer the dropping anchor down behind the harbour bar.

Oh, golden spread the Edgcumbe woods and purpling leaned
the down,
And lingering wreaths of yellow furze lit up the moorland
crown;

The world of home lay passing fair beyond the weary seas,
As all the bells began to ring and the folk ran down the quays.

From house to house, from street to street, the news ran far
and wide,
To Dart and Tamar, east and west, and up the country-side.

The dead had all been duly mourned long since, time out of
mind,
There was only clasp of welcome hands and mirth on board
the *Hind*.

They have brought the *Hind* to Deptford town, they have
moored her by the quay,
A bridge of plank athwart her waist—she will go no more to
sea.

But pilgrims come from far and near and climb her poop in
pride,
And many a barge from Tower steps drops down there on
the tide ;

There's not a 'prentice in the Fleet but has felt a sailor born
The day he saw the famous ship that found and named the
Horn ;

And scholars learned in the lore of great adventures past
Have turned conceits and epigrams to hang about her mast ;

While Drake's tall lads, in silk and stuff, went swaggering up
and down,
With tales that turned the staidest heads, and ale ran free in
town.

But now the windows all are wide, there are flags in every
street,
For the Queen herself has come to-day to sit with Drake at
meat.

The *Golden Hind's* great ordnance has fired the last salute,
The crew are marshalled on the poop with drum and fife and
flute ;

The board is spread between the decks among the brazen
guns,
For to-day the great Queen honours the bravest of her sons.

The captain of her guard was there in doublet slashed and
pearled,
For Hatton's was the proud device they had carried round
the world ;

And subtle Master Walsingham with the long thin nervous
hands,

Who knew the minds and manners of many folk and lands ;

And there was Martin Frobisher, the pilot of the Pole,
And Grenville, than whom England held no knightlier sailor
soul.

There sat Sir Humphrey Gilbert, the untimely lost—not yet
In the vengeful night of ocean scorned his storm-tossed star
had set ;

And Walter Raleigh new to court, and flushed with fortune's
smile,

The travelled Earl of Cumberland and Christopher Carlile ;

With Sanderson, the man of maps, who drew the first sea-
card,

And Osborne, Mayor of London town, and the elders of his
ward,

Whose merchant fleets shall sail henceforth untrammelled
east or west ;

And they spoke of deeds adventurous and all the world's
unrest.

So went she forth accompanied, that unforgotten day
She flung the Spaniard's challenge back, defiant ; these were
they

Who first dared dream and dreaming dared—while all was
yet to do,

To roll the bounds of empire back beyond the bounds they
knew ;

To bind the winds their bondsmen, and hold the tide their
slave,

And claim for island England dominion o'er the wave.

"Now hearken, lords and gentlemen, we have heard to-day,"
said she,

"Of the world beyond the sunset and the sea beyond the sea,

"But of piracies and plunderings, of trespass, raid, and
wrong—

Of this we learned from Philip's self, and the tale is passing
long;

"And still my kinsman claims to know whose flag this bark
hath flown

Which Master Drake hath dared maintain through seas he
claims his own.

"Now therefore to such questionings let this my answer be,
Down, truant rover, down, and crave my pardon on your
knee!"

Then he who fear had never known stood blanched before
her seat,

Ungirt his sword and bowed and knelt to lay it at her feet.

And roundly there she rated him, and looked him up and
down,

With eyes that knew a true man's worth, and smiled away
their frown.

She bared his blade, she rose a queen, a queen to mar or
make—

"My little pirate, rise," she cried, "and rise Sir Francis
Drake!"

IX

THE SINGEING OF THE BEARD

THE Queen's ships and the London ships were mustered in
the Sound,
For Drake had streamed his pennant there an Admiral out-
ward bound ;

No more a lawless rover now he signalled " Follow me !"
With the Queen's good leave and warranty to watch the
Southern sea.

For Parma held the northern ports and all the Spanish
coasts
Were live with gathering armaments and marshalling of
hosts.

At last the word was open war since Drake had swept the
main,
The champion of his Queen avowed against the might of
Spain :

He had sailed to Cartagena, had stormed the fort and town,
And held to pawn the fairest gem of Philip's western crown :

And the merchant guilds of Venice were scared and ill at
ease,
While ruined Seville closed her bank and mourned her
argosies.

The hand to check," the Queen had said, "the bridle and curb for me !

This folk be too high-mettled to run with a rein too free.

"But now I have given this realm of mine good space to breathe and grow,
And the time is ripe for action ; I will let my sea-dogs go."

So twenty bold adventurers beat out beneath the Rame,
And the Queen's ship *Bonaventure*, with a fortune in her name ;

Light winds this side the Lizard, without a north-west gale,
On board the stoutest companies that ever handled sail ;

They rounded Cape St. Vincent—it dropped to a merry breeze—
And ten days out from the Lizard light they had mustered off Cadiz.

The city on its headland bluff that eve of April-tide
On tower and fane and gable roof took all the sunset pride :

The batteries on the bastion heights frowned grimly o'er the bay,
But none may choose but follow where Drake shall lead the way.

He stood right in for Maryport—the tide was at the flow—
As, twinkling through the orange-groves, the lights began to show.

The batteries dared not open fire, for round the crowded ports
The victualling ships by hundreds rode beneath the sheltering forts ;

But, shadowlike, with measured pulse unchecked by bar or shoal,
The dreadful galleys oared with life across the twilight stole :

His broadsides flashed, the galleys turned, like wounded
living things,
With bleeding decks and splintered ribs and trailing broken
wings.

That night in shuddering Cadiz no weary eye might close,
But round her dim-lit altar shrines wild litanies arose :

Far inland through the vineyard hills ran tidings of despair,
The scourge of God had led the foe where none but Drake
would dare :

No monk might preach the panic down, no saint stood by to
save,
As the ruddy glare of burning ships lit up the moonless wave.

The galleons lay a helpless prey, their ordnance all in store,
The sails unbent, the anchors down, and the crews at work
on shore.

Adrift on night with cables cut he fired them as they fled,
From road to haven, wharf to dock, the flame of vengeance
spread ;

And, reddening in the dreadful glow, flashed spar and sail
and mast,
Where, lit by floating torches, the *Bonaventure* passed.

So there they looted, fired and fought, till none were left to
fight,
While Cadiz watched the devil's work that long disastrous
night ;

And when on shores made desolate another day began
He led the fleet in triumph out and had not lost a man.

So plucking at the giant's heart he dared his strength deride,
And Spain, who loves a gallant deed, applauded while she
sighed.

Then west by Seville's river-gates and on to Lagos Bay,
They raided every creek and cove where mustered shipping
lay.

This year the Algarve coast shall see no fishing fleets put
forth

When the great schools of tunny go scatheless shoaling
north.

The brine-tubs in the sun may crack along deserted quays,
This year shall no man gather in the harvest of the seas.

But far in quiet English homes shall summer wane in peace,
While good folk tend their harvesting and store the year's
increase.

Unscared along her white chalk cliffs shall child and mother
sleep ;

Unscared the coaster ply his trade while Drake patrols the
deep.

He had set his course for Florès isle, for now the home wind
blew,

And sailing with the Northern Trade the treasure fleets were
due ;

But as the ocean broadened out beyond St. Vincent's lee,
Once more the wild north-west raced down across a mad-
dened sea.

Three days and nights his scattered ships drove on before the
blast,

Then maimed and torn, in evil case, beat up for home at last.

But Drake held on his stubborn course until the storm
went by,

And saw no sign of all his fleet beneath the clearing sky.

Now it chanced that as he railed at fate and sailed his sullen
way,

King Philip's great East Indiaman came up from far Cathay.

She saw the flag of ill-renown, she crowded on more sail,
And then a desperate race began before the dying gale.

Alas ! for Spain's unlucky star, a league off Cadiz town,
In sight of help, in sight of home, her proud flag fluttered
down !

And so a month behind the rest, belying not her name,
With such a prize to Saltash creek the *Bonaventure* came.

But Drake rode post to London town to don a courtier's
dress

And kneel before the Queen and crave her pardon for success.

"Now, come you as a privateer from troubling all the sea ?
Or come you as my Admiral ?"—"So please my liege,"
said he,

"Your Grace's fleet in April gales went forth at high behest,
And found a giant's head thrust out that watched your high-
way west.

"For Vigo is the eye of Spain and Lisbon rock the nose,
And round the chin St. Vincent the trade of Turkey goes ;

"My liege's ships rode out the gale, the wind of fortune
veered,
And in his throat at Cadiz Bay I singed King Philip's beard."

X

THE ARMADA

THERE shall be so much forgotten of deeds beneath the sun,
But not this deed of England's, till England's race be run ;

The fathers shall tell their children, and the children's
children know
How we fought the great sea-battle three hundred years ago.

It was in the middle summer, and the wheat was full in ear,
But men's hearts were dark and troubled, and women's faint
for fear :

The fleets of Spain set sail in May, but a storm had warned
them home,
The might of Spain had met again to do the will of Rome.

The Pope's high benediction had sped them on their way,
With monks and priests and bishops to teach us how to
pray ;

And all the Southland's knighthood, well proved in many a
field,
And all her great sea-captains had come to make us yield ;

And thirty thousand seamen and soldiers lay aboard ;—
So England watched and waited, and trusted in the Lord.

Then all along this southern coast there was hurrying to
and fro,
And the nation's eyes went seaward to watch the coming
foe ;

The shepherds left the pasture-hills, the yeomen left their
farms,
For all the squires in England were gathering men-at-arms ;

And there was vigil through the night, and ever stir and life,
From the Foreland to the Landsend, before the coming
strife ;

The old sea-dogs of England were met on Plymouth Hoe,
And the little fleet was anchored across the Sound below ;

And rusty swords were furbished while yet the corn was
green,
For a mighty cry went through the land, *For God and for
the Queen !*

It was a July evening, and in the waning day
The fairy woods of Edgecumbe hung rosy o'er the bay,

When through the track of sunset, full-sail and homeward
bound,
A little bark came gliding in and anchored up the Sound ;

And round the quays and through the streets a wild-fire
rumour ran :
A sea-league off the Lizard they've seen the Spanish van.

They say the Lord High Admiral was bowling on the green,
And round him sat the goodliest men the world has ever
seen ;

For there was Richard Grenville, the bravest of the brave,
Who fought the greatest sea-fight that ever shook the wave

And there sat old John Hawkins, and preached of loot and prize,

And the grim battle-hunger flashed through his grizzled eyes ;

And there was Martin Frobisher, who tried the North-west way,

And saw the sunless noontide, and saw the midnight day ;

And Drake, the seaman's hero, whose sails were never furled,

Whose bark had found the ocean-path that girdles round the world ;

And Preston of La Guayra, and Fenner of the Azores,

Who shook the flag of England out on undiscovered shores ;

And Fenton, and John Davies, and many another one,

Whose keels had furrowed untried seas behind the setting sun.

Without one dark misgiving they sat and watched the play,

And sipped their wine and laughed their jests like boys on a holiday.

That night men fired the beacons and flared the message forth,

From the southland to the midland, from the midland to the north :

And there was mustering all night long, wild rumour and unrest,

And mothers clasped their children the closer to their breast ;

But calmly yet in Plymouth Sound the fleet of England lay,
The gunners slept beside their guns and waited for the day.

Then as the mists of morning cleared, up drew the Spanish van,

And grimly off the Devon cliffs that ten days' fight began.

Four giant galleons led the way like vultures to the feast,
And the huge league-long crescent rolled on from west to
east :

But they will not stay for Plymouth, nor check the late
advance,
For Parma's armies wait and fret to cross the Strait from
France.

No grander fleet, no better foe, has ever crossed the main,
No braver captains walked the deck than hold the day for
Spain.

There sailed Miguel d'Oquenda, our seamen knew him well,
Recalde and Pietro Valdez, Mexia and Pimentel.

Oh, if ever, men of England, now brace your courage high,
Make good your boast to rule the waves, and keep the lin-
stocks dry :

For the weeks of weary waiting, the long alert is past,
The pent-up hate of nations meets face to face at last.

The giant ships held on their course, and as the last was
clear

The Plymouth fleet put out to sea and hung upon their rear ;
And their war-drums beat to quarters, the bugles blared
alarms,

The stately ocean-castles were filled with men-at-arms.

All through that summer morn and noon, on till the close of
night,

We harried through the galleons and fought a running fight ;

And far up Dartmoor highlands men heard the booming gun,
And watched the clouds of battle beneath the summer sun.

As o'er some dead sea-monster wheel round the white-winged
gulls,

Our little ships ran in and out between the giant hulls ;

For fleetly through their clumsy lines we steered our nimble craft,

And thundered in our broadsides, and raked them fore and aft,

The broken spars flung havoc down, the floating castles reeled,

While o'er our heads their cannon flashed, their idle volleys pealed.

And the sun went down behind us, but the sea was ribbed with red,

For the greatest of the galleons was burning as she fled.

Yet hard behind we followed and held on through the night,
And kept the tossing lanterns of the Spanish fleet in sight.

So past Torbay to Portland Bill they ran on even keels,
And ever we hung behind them and gored their flying heels;

And many a hull dismasted was left alone to lag,
To fall back in the hornets' nest, and, fighting, strike her flag.

Then every port along the coast put out its privateers,
And one by one our ships came in with ringing cheers on cheers;

So sailed Sir Walter Raleigh, the knight-errant of the sea,
And all the best of Cornwall and Devon's chivalry,

Northumberland and Cumberland, and Oxford and Carew,
Till from every mast in England the red-cross banner blew.

A calm fell on the twenty-fifth—it was St. Jago's day—
And face to face off Weymouth cliffs the baffled warships lay.

Now, bishops, read your Masses, and, friars, chant your psalm!

Now, Spain, go up and prosper, for your saint hath sent the calm!

With stubborn sweep of giant oars that thresh the glassy blue,
The rear-guard galleons laboured down towards our foremost few.

Then loud laughed Admiral Howard, and a cheer went up the skies,
King Philip's three great galleons will be a noble prize !

So we towed out two of our six ships to meet each floating fort,
And we laid one on the starboard side and we laid one on the port ;

And all forenoon we pounded them ; they fought us hard and well,
Till the sulphur clouds along the calm hung like the breath of hell.

But a fair wind rose at noontide and baulked us of our prey,
The rescue came on wings of need and snatched the prize away ;

So past the Needles, past Spithead, along the Sussex shores,
The tide of battle eastward rolls, the cannon's thunder roars ;

The pike-men on the Sussex Downs could see the running fight,
And spread the rumour inland, the Dons were full in flight :

The fishing-smacks put out to sea from many a white chalk cove,

To follow in the battle's wake and glean the treasure-trove ;

Till night fell on the battle-scene, and under moon and star
Men saw the English Channel one long red flame of war.

So, harried like their hunted bulls before the horsemen's goad,

They dropped on the eve of Sunday to their place in Calais road :

And we, we ringed about them and dogged them to their lair
Beneath the guns of Calais, to fight us if they dare ;

But afar they rode at anchor and rued their battered pride,
As a wounded hound draws off alone to lick his gory side ;

And when the Sabbath morning broke, they had not changed
their line,
For Parma's host by Dunkirk town lay still and made no
sign.

So calm that Sabbath morning fell, men heard the land-bells
ring,
They heard the monks at masses, they heard the soldiers
sing ;

Then as the noon grew sultry came sounds of feast and mirth,
And when the sun set many had seen the last on earth.

A breeze sprang up at even, dark clouds rolled up the sky,
And evil-boding fell the night, that last night of July.

But in the fleet of England was every soul awake,
For a pinnace ran from bark to bark and brought us word
from Drake ;

And we towed eight ships to leeward, and set their bows to
shore,
To send the Dons a greeting they never had before ;

No traitor moon revealed us, there shone no summer star
As we smeared the doomed hulls over with rosin and
with tar ;

And all their heavy ordnance was rammed with stone and
chain,
And they bore down on the night wind into the heart of
Spain.

It was Prowse and Young of Bideford who had the charge to
steer,
And a bow-shot from the Spanish lines they fired them with
a cheer,

Dropped each into his pinnace—it was deftly done and well—
And on the tide set shoreward they loosed the floating hell!

Oh, then were cables severed, then rose a panic cry
To every saint in heaven, that shook the reddened sky!

And some to north and some to south, like a herd of bulls set
free,
With sails half set and cracking spars they staggered out to
sea:

But we lay still in order and ringed them as they came,
And scared the cloudy dawning with thunder and with flame.

The North Sea fleet came sailing down, our ships grew more
and more,
As Wynter charged their severed van and drove their best on
shore.

The Flemish boors came out to loot, and up the Holland
dykes
The windmills stopped, the burghers marched with muskets
and with pikes;

So we chased them through the racing sea and banded them
as they went,
And some we sank, and boarded some, till all our shot was
spent;

Till we had no food nor powder, but only the will to fight,
And the shadows closed about us and we lost them in the
night.

The white sea-horses sniffed the gale and climbed our sides for
glee,
And rocked us and caressed us and danced away to lee.

Now rest you, men of England, for the fight is lost and won,
The God of Storms will do the rest, and grimly it was done ;

Far north, far north on wings of death those scattered galleys
steer
Towards the rock-bound islands, the Scottish headlands
drear ;

And the fishers of the Orkneys shall reap a golden store,
And Irish kernes shall strip the dead tossed up their rocky
shore.

Long, long the maids of Aragon may watch and wait in vain,
The boys they sent for dowries will never come again.

Deep, fathoms deep their lovers sleep beneath an alien wave,
And not a foot of English land, not even for a grave !

But it's Ah for the childless mothers ! and Ah for the
widowed maids !
And the sea-weed, not the myrtle, twined round their rusting
blades !

But we sailed back in triumph, our banner floating free,
Our red-cross banner in the gale,—the masters of the sea !

The waves did battle for us, the winds were on our side,
The God of the just and unjust hath humbled Philip's pride.

Henceforth shall no man bind us : where'er the salt tides flow
Our sails shall take the sea-breeze, the oaks of England go !

And every isle shall know them, and every land that lies
Beyond the bars of sunset, the shadows of sunrise.

Henceforth, oh Island England, be worthy of thy fate,
And let thy new-world children revere thee wise and great !

Sit throned on either ocean and watch thy sons increase,
And keep the seas for freedom and hold the lands for peace !

Thy fleets shall bear the harvest from all thy daughter-lands,
And o'er thy blue sea-highways the continents join hands.

But should some new intruder rise to bind the ocean's bride,
Should once thy wave-dominion be questioned or denied,

Then rouse thee from thy happy dream, go forth and be again
The England of our hero-sires who broke the might of Spain.

XI

THE BURIAL OF DRAKE

Hove to off Puerto Bello the Queen's *Defiance* lay,
The sun went down on Darien and crimsoned all the bay.

Yet once more Dame Adventure, the witch that knows no
ruth,
Had smiled from out the sunset world, the siren smile of
youth.

But the merry main was silent now, no more in careless ease
The treasure transports plied unscared through those en-
chanted seas,

And fleets of war sailed to and fro between the island ports,
The peaceful cities of the west were grim with battled forts ;

For many a year had come and gone since Drake's un-
conquered hand,
The magic of his name had changed the face of all that land.

Of five that sailed from Plymouth shall one see home again,
For storm and death and sickness have fought the fight for
Spain.

The dauntless eyes had lost their mirth, the stricken ranks
grew less,
But till the end he hugged his dream and scoffed at ill-
success.

Defeat nor failure had not taught that stubborn will to break,
But life-long toil and fever breath wore out the heart of
Drake.

So, grave and heavy-hearted, they watched the setting sun,
His crews that leave untenanted the isles that he had won.

The skies were red and angry, the heaving waves were red,
And in his leaden coffin lay the great sea-captain dead.

Old friends stood ringed about him and every head was
bowed,
St. George's red-cross banner lay over him for shroud.

The cradle of his childhood's dream rocked on an English
wave,
Here billows no more alien shall guard an English grave.

He ploughed the longest furrow that ever split the foam,
From sunset round to sunrise he brought the good ship home.

His soul was wide as ocean, unfettered as the breeze,
He left us for inheritance the freedom of the seas.

The death-guns echoed landward, the last brief prayer was
said,
“'Neath some great wave” they left him there, till the sea
gives up her dead.

THE BALLAD OF RICHARD PEAKE

“A good ship I know, and a poor cabin ; and the language of a cannon : and therefore as my breeding has been rough, scorning delicacy, so must my writings be, proceeding from fingers fitter for the pike than the pen.”—PEAKE'S *Narrative*.

THIS is the tale of Richard Peake,
Of Tavistock in Devon,
And the fight he fought in Xeres town,—
God rest his soul in Heaven !

I know each pool of Dart and Exe
Where trout or grayling hide,
I know the moors from sea to sea
And where the red-deer bide ;
I know a tall ship stem to stern
What sail to set or strike,
I know to point a culverin
And how to thrust a pike.
I know the star-way through the night
And the bodings in the skies,
But many a man knows more than I
That is not wondrous wise.
I cannot turn a silken phrase,
Nor make a sonnet sing ;
Yet must I write my chronicle
For my good Lord the King.

A western man and lowly born,
And early sent to sea,—
So simple as my breeding was,
Let this my record be.

Ye have heard my Lord of Essex
How he sailed to Cadiz Bay,
With all King Charles' men of war
Upon a Saturday.
We were sixteen sail of Holland,
And a hundred of the line,
And I was pricked a volunteer
Aboard the *Convertine*.
We had stormed the fort and castle
From rising of the sun,
And long ere noon they landed
And silenced every gun.
But I was no shore soldier,
And so on board must bide
What time my Lord of Essex
Marched up the country-side.

Now it fell on the Monday morning
I took my leave ashore,
And walked up through the orange groves
A mile might be, or more.
'Twas said the country-side was bare,
The country-folk in flight,
A score of miles round Cadiz town,
And not a don in sight ;—
When suddenly a cavalier,
His long sword at the thrust,
Came spurring down the narrow way
With a clatter through the dust.
His steed was checked, his grip was loosed,
With a flap from my blue cloak ;

I clutched the rider by the heel,
And caught the muffled stroke ;
I dragged him down upon his face
And stripped him where he lay,
I took five silver pieces
And a horse in that affray.
But while he begged his life in words
That lisp on English ears,
There stole down through the orange groves
His squad of musketeers :
And when my hands were bound behind,
That knight, to his disgrace,
Took back the sword I stripped him of
And slashed me in the face.
With seven guards on either hand
And this brave knight before,
They brought me bound and bloody
In through the city door ;
They gored my back with halberds
And spat into my face,
The urchins called me heathen swine,
God give them little grace !
They threw me into prison,
So bloodless and so weak,
It needed all their leeches
To find me strength to speak ;
And vain it was my Captain sent
To ransom Richard Peake.
I saw our frigates hoisting sail
Upon the seventh day,
And through my dungeon window
I watched them fade away.
Two Irish monks came every noon
And wasted pious breath,
Adjuring me from heresy
Since I must die the death.

And when a week had passed they said
It was the Governor's mind
That I should thence to Xeres town,
To the torture, they divined.

In Xeres Duke Medina lay
With many a Count and Earl,
And gravely these good lords were met
To try the English churl.
It was a pleasant sight to see
Where they sat in double rows,
Such ruffles and such velvet cloaks
And slashen sleeves and hose !
The Duke sat at the table's head
With the King's golden chain—
I mind no finer gentlemen
Than gentlemen in Spain.
And there and then Medina's self
Rebuked that craven knight
Who struck the prisoner in the face
He dared not face in fight.
They plied me well with questions—
What guns were in the fleet ?
What ship was mine ? what captain ?
And I answered as was meet.
They asked how strong the fort was
That watches Plymouth Sound,
And boastfully I lied my best
As a Devon man was bound.
Quoth one, " Why spared ye Cadiz ?
Your fleet put back to sea !"
" Who loots," said I, " in palaces
May let the almshouse be."
But all this while the soldiers round
Made mirth each time I spoke,
And ugly words for English ears
Went round the common folk :

Until some jest rang o'er the rest,
And all those nobles smiled ;
Now God forbid that I should stand
And hear my land reviled.

I said, " Your king keeps gallant troops
To wear such bands and cuffs,
And they should hold in battle firm
When the starch is in their ruffs.
Yet were I free to pick my choice
From a score of oaken sticks,
I'd stand and play my quarterstaff
For life or death with six."
" Now, by the rood," Medina said,
" A braggart though thou be,
I will not take thee at thy word,
But fight thou shalt with three !"

And if I made so bold a face
Be sure it was not pride,
But Richard Peake of Tavistock
Had heard his land belied.
I deemed my death was long resolved,
So basely would not die,
And three to one were heavy odds
For a better man than I.
A halberd was my quarterstaff—
They knocked the blade away,
The iron spike which shod the butt
Stood me in stead that day.
I swung the halberd round my head
And felt my might again,
And I took my stand for England
Against the arch-foe Spain.

Then out stepped three hidalgos,
Steel armoured cap-a-pie,
And lightly sprang into the lists
With a mocking bow to me.
God save my Lord—though I must speak—
It was a pretty fight.
Three long swords thrust and feinted
In front, to left, to right ;
While round their heads the halberd swung
And as they closed up near,
I snapped two blades, then shortened grip
And used it as a spear ;
I drove it at the third one's breast,
And a horrid wound it made,
The iron butt went through his heart
And out by the shoulder-blade.
And now befell a wondrous thing,—
I needs must say again
Earth holds no finer gentlemen
Than the gentlemen of Spain.

Those nobles rose and clapped their hands :
The Duke was first to speak,
He bade no man on pain of death
Lay hands on Richard Peake.
They gave me gold, a band and cuffs,
This cloak I wear, the ring,
And sent me forth escorted well
To see the Spanish King ;
And in Madrid on Christmas Day
I knelt before his sight,
Resolving all his questionings
With what poor wit I might.
He would have had me bide in Spain
To serve on shore or sea,
But I've a wife by Tavy side
And she's got none but me.

Wherefore he pitied my estate
And pardon free bestowed,
With a hundred pistoles in my scrip
For charges on the road.
And so I bade Madrid farewell,
And came without annoy
Through France to Bordeaux haven,
And thence took ship to Foy.

Now while the Tamar winds to sea,
And while the Tavy runs,
God bless my old west country,
And God bless all her sons !
It's not in vain we've tracked the deer
By dale and moor and fen,
And drunk the morning with our lips,
And grown up brawny men.
It's not in vain we swam the Sound,
And tugged the heavy oar,
And braced the nerve and trained the limbs
That English mothers bore.
And therefore when the fight goes hard,
And the many meet the few,
She'll still find hands to do the work
That English lads must do.
So here I render thanks to God,
Who brought me through the sea,
Across the desert, back again,
My mother-land, to thee.

This was the tale of Richard Peake
Of Tavistock in Devon,
And the fight he fought in Xeres town,—
God rest his soul in Heaven !

THE FIRST OF JUNE

THAT fight shall be remembered while sea-tides ebb and flow,
That fight that fell on the first of June a hundred years ago ;

What time in the mid-Atlantic, far out of the ken of shore,
The flag of the double crosses was matched with the tricolor.

The fleets were even ship for ship, and man for man the
crews,
And braver seaman never sailed than Villaret-Joyeuse.

When Howe broke through his battle line, the first to join the
fray,
The *Vengeur* shook her top-sails out and raced to bar the
way ;

The *Brunswick* steering for the gap was next to gallant
Howe,
And driving on before the wind she struck her on the bow ;—

The forechains held her anchor fast, she swung and could not
free,
So tethered in a deadly grip those two dropped off to lee.

Our English blew their ports away, the shock had jammed
them to,
They rammed their guns with shot and chain and raked the
Vengeur through.

While hand to hand on the upper deck the Frenchmen
 swarmed to board,
Redressed the balance of the fight with grape and pike and
 sword:

That long forenoon the battle raged they scarce knew how or
 where,
Who, shrouded in a sulphur mist, fought out their duel
 there.

Our figure-head was Brunswick's Duke, who died at Auer-
 stadt:

Now it chanced a round shot carried off the Duke's three-
 cornered hat.

Brave Captain Harvey lay below with the wound of which
 he died,
But as the word passed round the decks he raised him on his
 side,

And, "God forbid King George's fleet or Admiral Howe
 should see
The gallant Duke uncover to Villaret," says he.

His strength was ebbing as he spoke, but smiling through the
 pain,
"I shall not need," he whispered, "to wear my own
 again,"

"Take my cocked hat and brush away the powder from the
 lace,
And send for Jack the carpenter to nail it in its place."

The bullets snarled and spattered thick where'er a face might
 show,
But Jack just said, "Aye, aye, sir," and touched his hat
 to go.

They watched him crawl out on the boom, they lost him in
the smoke,
And through a pause of battle roar they caught his hammer's
stroke.

But when the breeze a moment's space blew all the forecastle
clear
There rose from half a thousand throats a ringing English
cheer :

For Jack was back at quarters, begrimed and black and
torn,—
“And the Duke does not uncover, lads, to any Frenchman
born !”

You know the rest,—the long swell grew, the vessels strained
and heeled
Till the grapple parted, and away the stricken *Vengeur*
reeled ;

Her spars still swung, but rudderless she drifted o'er the
seas,
And lost the mastless *Brunswick* to close with the *Ramillies*.

An hour more and waterlogged she rolled a helpless wreck,
But still she bore the tricolor above her bloody deck.

When seven ships had struck their flags and that great fight
was done,
When the shrouding smoke drew up and off towards the
setting sun,

They saw her sinking slowly down with all her dying brave,
And boats put out in eager haste to succour and to save.

Too late, alas, to rescue all—the sea winds took their cry,
The cool waves washed their fevered wounds and they died
as heroes die.

All honour to the men who wore the tricolor cockade,
All honour to the *Vengeur* for the splendid fight she made !

And to our own brave sailor lads all honour then as now,
But when the first of June comes round and you drink to
gallant Howe,

Remember Jack the carpenter who held his life in scorn,
If Brunswick should uncover to any Frenchman born.

QUIBERON

SIR EDWARD HAWKE the Admiral
Had trapped the French in Brest,
When a gale that blew a hurricane
Came driving from the west.

The cruising fleet bore up awhile
To shelter in Torbay—
The wind went round and stealthily
The Frenchmen slipped away.

So the quidnuncs of the coffee-shops,
The loafers of the Strand,
And the watermen from Tower stairs
Had a merry job in hand.

They made a mimic man of straw,
With hose and buckled shoe,
With frogged tail-coat and gold-laced hat—
An Admiral of the Blue.

They hauled him down to Westminster
And fixed him on a pike,
And there they burned in effigy
The Hawke that did not strike.

But while that mob in London town
Proclaimed their panic spite,
Between the shoals and Croisic roads
He had fought his great sea-fight

Five days he chased them southwards
 And east before a gale,
 Till 'twixt Bellisle and Quiberon
 They counted twenty sail.

That angry sea was thick with reefs,
 A lee-shore loomed behind,
 But Hawke dashed in at headlong speed
 Close-reefed before the wind ;

And in the gate of Quiberon,
 At noon the self-same day
 That rabble burned his effigy,
 The Hawke had struck his prey.

Choiseul may sell his transports now
 To quench his troopers' thirst,
 The fleet that menaced England
 Is shattered and dispersed.

September rang with Minden's news,
 October won Quebec,
 November's gales and Quiberon
 Achieved the final wreck.

And the quidnuncs of the coffee-shops
 Felt very big and brave,
 And swore once more that Englishmen
 Were born to rule the wave.

PUMWANI

COMRADES mine of *Blanche* and *Swallow*, scattered now a
hundred ways,

Such a march we made together once in torrid August
days!

Up the mangrove creeks we laboured, where the crooked
roots divide,

Clutching fast the shoaling mud-banks and encroaching on
the tide;

Gaunt and hideous rose the baobabs with their bloated stems
and bare,

And their gray arms stretching naked to the rank and
steamy air;

There we slept beneath the mangoes on forsaken village
sites,

And drank in the cool refreshment of the wind-swept tropic
nights,

Till at last the word was forward! and a noiseless camp
awoke,

And the line fell into order ere the blush of morning broke.

Faint our track wound through the clearings, with their
rank grass shoulder high,

Right and left the dense black forest walling in a tropic sky;

Where the gum-vine binds the branches and the fiercely
fecund soil

Bars the way to human ingress, tightens tangles into coil.

Weirdly twisted rose the thorn-palm, elbowed through its
withered skirt,
Up the blue the vultures rising gave the woodland life
alert.

Close we followed each on other in the single serpent file,—
While the gray baboons watched wondering,—linked the line
of half a mile.

Round our knees the black marsh water, where the fever
poison breeds,
Where the slimy mud-fish wriggle through the tangled roots
and reeds.

Then we held our breath in silence with the awe that comes
to men,
For the dropping shots gave warning we were near the
robber den.

Shrill our bugle broke the stillness of that forest edged with
eyes,
Then a wild uproar of drumming and a thunder to the skies;
Tongues of flame and battle rattle, puffs of smoke along the
green,
Silent pauses in the volleys, and the foe we fought unseen:

Yet our little line drew closer, creeping on by slow degrees,
While the rockets like winged dragons ploughed a fire track
through the trees.

And the minutes passed like hours, and the burning sun beat
down,
Till the noon drank up the shadows and we held in the rebel
town.

Once again the heart beat lightly and a sense of triumph
grew,
For the fort was well defended and great gaps were in our
few.

Swiftly fell the tropic evening, and, while camp fires flickered
red,

Softly we drew off on one side and we gathered up our
dead ;—

By a lantern's feeble flicker read the words with which we
trust

This our brother to God's keeping, this his body to the dust.

Dug a trench for you to lie in, you whose home was on
the wave,

You, the white man with the dark men, your bedfellows in
the grave,

White and black both dead for England, with the grass mats
round your heads,—

As we turned and left them lying in their solitary beds.

So world over sleep the English, eyes of friends will never
look

Through that gloom of Afric forest where we buried stoker
Cook.

Only gray baboons will chatter in the branches where you
lie,

And the quick hyena scamper through the tangle silently ;

Yet such meed of due remembrance I would yield you as
I may,

Since you gave your life for England—have her greatest
more to say ?

Since last night we slept together, 'twixt the grasses and the
star,

And to-night you sleep for ever by the bitter chance of war.

But the camp was quick with laughter, for the blood was
beating high,—

Laugh out!—life is for the living, for the dead at most a sigh.

And the men whose hearts are boys' hearts set the lanterns
in a ring,

And the battle dawn's reaction made the peace of evening
sing.

So the old sea-songs came rolling till the chorus shook the
trees,

And the tropic stars looked wondering at the men from over
seas.

Then the hand-shake and the silence, and brief sleep for
those who may.

Let to-morrow take its chances, we have lived our lives
to-day.

EAST AFRICA, 1893.

TO GERALD PORTAL

A BLOOD-RED sky, a milky sea ;
And home almost in hail,
And you that walked the deck with me
To watch that glory pale !

I think my eyes had never seen
So grand an even sky,
As that which ushered Europe in,
You only reached to die.

Was it there first I learned to know
How much you were to me ?
Though neither spoke, for that red glow
Had struck the silent key.

The torrid suns were far behind
The toil of dreary days,
The breaths of poison striking blind,
The wild untrodden ways :

I had no doubts, I never thought
Those kind and fearless eyes,
Those strong unfaltering hands, were wrought
Of stuff that lightly dies.

O fierce dark land, unconquered still
Though doomed to our behest,
How long ere thou hast drunk thy fill
Of the blood of England's best !

The ship glides on, and overhead
The moonless night succeeds,—
Henceforth whenever skies are red
I may think my own heart bleeds.

THE DUKE HAS FRIENDS

My answer is—fill up your glass !—With you, Sir John, the
Port !

They may call him traitor if they dare, and hound him from
the Court !

There's many a courtier I could name has had his fingers
black

With dipping after dirtier coin in some one else's sack.

But you and I may only know we've drawn for England's
right

Behind the greatest captain that ever rode to fight !

Have you forgotten Eckerslau, when the balls were thick as
rain,

And we thought the word would never come to take the field
again :

When the battle hung in balance, and we waited for his
sign :

Do you remember what you felt as he cantered down the
line ?

His breast was all one blaze of stars, his wrists were ruffed
with lace,

The wind blew back his scented curls and showed his gallant
face ;

The bullets snarled like angry wasps, the cannon thundered
loud,

As he drew his rein before our ranks, and raised his hat and
bowed ;

' With your permission, gentlemen of the English cavalry,
Myself will lead where honour calls—sound trumpet, charge !'
said he.

And calm as in the hunting-field he wheeled his chestnut
round,
And all the line behind him leapt forward with a bound.

Then, when the fight was over, and Blenheim lost and won,
And England's greatest day went down in triumph with the
sun,

I see him as he bowed once more in answer to our cheers,
That splendid English gentleman, that prince of cavaliers !

The town may talk its head off—I care not who they tell,
The Duke ! his health in bumpers, and the Court may go to
Hell !

AT STRATHFIELDSAY

THE Autumn sun went down on Strathfieldsay,—
An old man rode by shadowy lawn and dell,
The old horse turned and took the homeward way,
And sweetly evening's benediction fell.
Then—wreathing smoke and grove and gable-crest
Melting together in the sunset skies,
Piled a fantastic fabric in the west,
And touched the chord of sleeping memories.
He saw it all;—there frowned the battled height,
Here flowed Aguéda livid in the glare,
Ciudad Rodrigo blazed into the night,
And cannon thundered through the misty air;—
Sounds of far voices, silent long ago,
Rose like faint echoes, and close by his side
Familiar forms seemed fitting to and fro,
While darkness gathered and the red glow died.
The old horse whinnied, and he bowed his head,
The twilight mellowed to its own again,—
“All *that* I lived through! and they all are dead!
Grant us Thy peace, God merciful. Amen!”

THOBAL

THERE was bloody work in the border hills, as it drew to
Easter-tide,
And the flag that waved for England was humbled there
in its pride.

They were grim familiar tidings, those few dark words of
doom,
For the wide outposts of Empire are marked by the lonely
tomb ;—

There was no new phase in the story, but another page writ
red,
The ambush laid, and the few too few, and the roll of English
dead !

And we doubted not of the duty done, we were sure they
had died like men,
And we knew that the flag of England would float on its
mast again.

But it chanced there were thirty Ghoorkas who were march-
ing on their way,
With fifty more of the Burman folk that have learned the
word "obey,"

When the scouts brought in the tidings, and the blood lust
made them mad,
These eighty men of the loyal folk led on by an English lad.

And he did not wait nor waver, he took no count of the odds,
For he knew that he stood for England in the face of the painted gods ;

Though the hills poured down their thousands, if the sturdy pluck held true,
He would stand his ground and show them what an English lad could do.

So a week went by in silence, and at last the message came,
And the eighty men of Thobal had saved the English name.

Then speak, oh mother island, for was it not well done ?
Be proud of thy step-children, and proudest of thy son !

Once more the world has seen it, far under alien skies,
The beating heart of England is where the old flag flies.

What though they deem thou sleepest, and smile to see thee range,
And follow wandering voices on many a wind of change ;

What though men say thy gospel is the counter and the till,
The boys we send to the far world's end have the heart of the lion still—

The heart of Richard Grenville when he fought with the fifty-three,
As he bled to death in the battered hull that was lost in the Spanish sea ;

The heart of Walter Raleigh, and the heart of Francis Drake,
The heart of all the heroes who have lived for England's sake ;

The heart of those who ventured on many a hopeless quest,
Till their dear divine unreason had joined the east and west.

You boys that man the warships that are the ocean queen's,
Come back and tell your fathers what that name of England
means.

Round all the world's wide girdle, in Asia's dark defiles,
In the yellow sands of torrid lands, in tempest-sundered
isles,

O'er many a lonely station the trebled crosses wave,
For justice to the weaker, and for freedom to the slave !

God send her rulers wisdom,—the task to tame the lands,
The peril path of Empire is safe in these young hands.

Though the air be filled with strange new sound, and perplexed
with doubtful creeds,
The boys we send to the far world's end still know what
England needs.

TENNYSON

INTO the silent Abbey, to the heroes' burying-place,
Bear him and leave him lying, peer with the peers of his
race!

With the men of debate and battle, the mighty of heart or of
brain,

Warders of Empire's outposts, home with their own again:—

Fitting is their death-welcome—the masks of his great com-
peers

Wrapt in the trance of silence—fitter for him than tears.

Never a sigh escort him, he has lived the tale of his days,
His burial-wreath is the laurel, his dirge is a nation's praise.

Why do we call him hero? Why do we bury him here?
Why are all England's greatest gathered about his bier?

Wandering sons she hath many, erring and loved no less
But this was the son of her heart, and his strength was his
faithfulness.

Singer of England's saga, back to the misty prime,
Rolling a morning glamour over the night of time;

Singer of English gardens, poet of English springs
Lover of earth's dear beauty, and all elemental things.

Never a girl in England, or in England over the sea,
But wakes to her life's first love-dream sweetlier-souled for
thee.

Never a boy's young life-blood thirsts for the dawn of deeds,
But it throbs to a nobler impulse as he turns thy roll and
reads.

That was his lofty level, all that is hard and high,
All that is purely purposed, theme of his minstrelsy :

Never for easy guerdon—the goodliest gift disgraced—
Flinging a tainted poison down to a morbid taste :

Never a doubt or shadow cast on a virgin soul,
But love in a pure white garment, and faith in an aureole ;

Lending the mute thought language, flame to the waning fire,
A voice for the dream of the simple, a song for the world's
desire.

For his heart was the heart of a child, and of such since time
began
Are those the Eternal uses to speak to the heart of man.

ABOU HAMED

Two white stone crosses side by side
Mark where the true blood flowed,
Where Sidney and Fitzclarence died
To win the desert road.
And ringed about them close at hand
In trenches not too deep,
Unnamed, unnumbered in the sand,
Their dead black troopers sleep.

No cypress here, no English yew,
No trailing willow waves ;
On wastes where never green thing grew
Lone blanch their outpost graves.
Through scanty fringe of thorn and palm
The Nile rolls on hard by,
Around them broods the desert calm,
Above the desert sky.

The sunrise scares the waning moon
And smites the dawn with fire,
The still mirage of torrid noon
Fades like a vain desire ;
Time's wrinkled hand marks no impress
Across that desert wide,
And changeless there in changelessness
Shall those white graves abide.

For they that seek the river's flow
From the parched eastern waste,
And mark the evening's orange glow,
Push on in panic haste ;

And caravans from north to south
 That through the desert fare,
 Choose other spots to quench their drouth
 When swift night falls—for there,

The dark folk tell, as evening dies,
 A sentry's cry alarms
 The graves from which dead soldiers rise
 That hear the call to arms ;
 And till the new sun's level rays
 Chase night across the sand,
 On guard around their English beys
 The dead battalions stand.

World-over thus, good comrades sleep,
 By alien wilds and waves,
 Where kindly hands are none to keep
 And tend the frontier graves ;
 But here, though not in hallowed ground,
 Beneath the Afric sky,
 Inviolately fenced around
 With love and awe they lie.

SPRING THOUGHTS

My England, island England, such leagues and leagues
away,
It's years since I was with thee, when April wanes to
May:—

Years since I saw the primrose, and watched the brown
hillside
Put on white crowns of blossom and blush like April's bride ;
Years since I heard thy skylark, and caught the throbbing
note
Which all the soul of springtide sends through the black-
bird's throat.

Oh England, island England, if it has been my lot
To live long years in alien lands, with men who love thee
not,

I do but love thee better, who know each wind that blows—
The wind that slays the blossom, the wind that buds the
rose,

The wind that shakes the taper mast and keeps the topsail
furled,
The wind that braces nerve and arm to battle with the
world !

I love thy moss-deep grasses, thy great untortured trees,
The cliffs that wall thy havens, the weed-scents of thy seas,

The dreamy river reaches, the quiet English homes,
The milky path of sores down which the springtide comes.

Oh land so loved through length of years, so tended and
caressed,
The land that never stranger wronged nor foeman dared to
waste,

Remember those thou speedest forth round all the world
to be

Thy witness to the nations, thy warders on the sea !

And keep for those who leave thee and find no better place
The olden smile of welcome, the unchanged mother-face

NOTES

SAN JUAN DE LULA

Though many had held it was God's work, too, etc. Page 24.

The experiment of introducing African negroes into the West India Islands was first suggested by the excellent Bishop, Las Casas, who recommended the purchase of prisoners for this object on the West African Coast, where barbarous *customs* devoted the weaker races to human sacrifice or the orgies of cannibalism, on the plea that their servitude would save them from a horrible fate and enable them to be made Christians. It is stated that while the slave-trade gave these prisoners a material value, the *customs* of the dominant races were suspended.

In a former edition, misled by Froude's account of this episode, I did an injustice to Alvaro de Bazan. It was undoubtedly the Viceroy of Mexico, Martine Enriquez, who was responsible for the breach of faith here described.

THE REPRISAL

The fierce black tribes of the Cimaroons. Page 50.

Cimaroons or Maroons : Sp. Cimarrones.

"Eighty years ago a number of African slaves had been driven by the cruelty of their masters to take to the woods, and having found favour in the eyes of the Indian women, they had now grown into two great tribes, whose terrible mission it was to rob, and kill, and torture every Spaniard on whom they could lay their hands."—Corbett's *Drake*, p. 23.

ST. JULIAN'S BAY

And bared the sword his arm alone might wield in honour bound.

Page 72.

The fact that Drake himself was the executioner of Thomas Doughty, taking thus the full responsibility on his own shoulders, is recorded in the correspondence of the Spanish envoy. Mendoza, who cross-examined Wynter on the whole episode, showed a suspicious interest in his fate.

THE WORLD ENCOMPASSED

They had sought for the fabled outlet of the Straits of Anian.

Page 87.

The name given to the supposed northern passage between the two oceans, the existence of which was an article of faith with the old mariners.

Re-echoing in an alien speech the great sea-captain's name.

Page 89.

It is believed that the city of San Francisco occupies the site where Drake set up the pillar and inscription, recording that he had taken possession of "New Albion" in the name of Queen Elizabeth.

THE HOME-COMING

For Hatton's was the proud device they had carried round the world.

Page 97.

A Golden Hind was the crest of Christopher Hatton, the Captain of the Guard, who was one of the chief promoters and shareholders in the venture. In changing the name of the *Pelican* to the *Golden Hind*, Drake diplomatically identified with his enterprise one of the reigning favourites at Court.

THE SINGEING OF THE BEARD

For Vigo is the eye of Spain, etc. Page 104.

The kingdoms of Spain and Portugal were at this period united under Philip's rule.

THE FIRST OF JUNE

The flag of the double crosses was matched with the tricolor.
Page 124.

The French fleet which took part in this memorable battle was the first which used the tricolour flag.

The third cross was only added to the Union Jack in 1801. The original flag was the red cross of St. George, to which St. Andrew's cross was added by James I.

THE END

[illegible]

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